MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018 mrt★com *320,000 readers in print and online*

DIGITAL DEVICES

Apple is late to enter market for smart speakers.

Page 2B



AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Roger Federer wins open, earns more major singles titles than any man.

Page 1C

Local officials notice increase in drug-related arrests

■ DA: Office has about 300 more cases than in 2014

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

Midland entities have noticed recent upticks in drug-related arrests, and law enforcement officials said crime-fighting efforts and population growth could help to explain the trend.

The Midland County District Attorney's office has about 300 more drug cases now than it did in 2014. Also, personnel at the Texas Department of Public Safety testing lab referenced the volume of substances sent for analysis from this area, according to District Attorney Laura A. Nodolf.

"I was shocked when they pointed that out," Nodolf said. "It confirmed what we were seeing. It confirmed what type of cases we were getting."

At the Midland Police Department, the narcotics unit made 239 arrests last year — a jump from 186 in 2016. Lt. Ray Leible, who works in the special investigations division, said overall crime has gone down.

"I don't want our citizens to be alarmed, to think there's a huge drug problem," he said. "Drugs are prevalent anywhere in this country, and we have a proactive police department."

Instead of targeting specific types of drugs, Leible said the narcotics unit works to get all substances off the streets. He said those officers often work in the city and not from their offices.

"I couldn't be prouder… to represent them," Leible said. "They are fighting the fight at the street level to make our community safer. They're doing a very, very fine job."

Leible and Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter said population surges can also impact drugs in the community.

"We have a lot more people 'from' outside of this area

Please see **ARRESTS/2A**

Oilfield quandary



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Casing is put downhole on Trinidad Rig 433 on Nov. 2, 2016, in Midland County. Oil companies and their support systems are earning significant profits for the first time since the downturn began in late 2014.

Discipline is critical for oil executives

■ Keeping debt low and profits high is the only sure way to survive whatever comes next

■ COMMENTARY

By Chris Tomlinson
Houston Chronicle

The price of Texas crude popped above $65 a barrel last week, creating a quandary for oil executives.

Should they lock in the highest price in four years with hedges, or should they gamble on the price going even higher?

The industry's history is littered with bankruptcy filings by chief executives who made the wrong bet.

The oil and gas business is in a transition period, coming off of a bust but without a clear boom on the horizon. These transition periods are the most dangerous, especially now, when the entire energy sector is in the midst of the most profound transformation since Spindletop.

In the coming months, the U.S. will break its record for monthly oil production set in 1970, pumping an average of 10.2 million barrels a day. By year-end, the U.S. could start producing more crude than Saudi Arabia, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Oil companies and their support systems are raking in significant profits for the first time since 2014, when the bust began. Shale drillers are controlling their spending and recording profits from operations, a first, while services provider Halliburton reported a 50 percent jump in revenue in the fourth quarter.

To help guarantee sustained profits, 43 companies studied by consulting firm IHS Markit hedged 25 percent of their 2018 production at an average price of $53.40 a barrel. They're not collecting $64 for those barrels, but neither will they suffer lower prices should the market collapse.

"Companies are seeking more predictable cash flows because of greater investor demands to improve corporate returns and keep capital spending within cash flow," said Paul O'Donnell, principal energy analyst at IHS Markit. "The higher level of hedging is less about supporting aggressive production growth and more about increasing investor confidence

Please see **OIL/2A**

Conaway wants stronger E-Verify system

■ Transition period needed to do background checks on immigrants, Midland lawmaker says

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

The approach the federal government will use for the undocumented-workers issue in the U.S. remains to be seen, but U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway is fighting to make sure workers in agriculture are handled with care.

During a meeting Wednesday with the Reporter-Telegram editorial board, Conaway said that if someone is here legally, they should be able to work; if they're here illegally, they should not be able to work. He wants a stronger E-Verify

Please see **CONAWAY/2A**

David Robbins joins newspaper staff

From staff reports

Midland Reporter-Telegram Publisher Jeff Shabram has announced the appointment of David Robbins as vice president of marketing and advertising.



Robbins

"We are extremely pleased to welcome David Robbins to the MRT Media Group and Hearst West Texas Newspapers," Shabram said. "He brings a great deal of experience and knowledge to our team. David will benefit both our company and our community."

Robbins comes to Midland from St. Augustine, Florida, where he was vice president of sales for the St. Augustine Record for three years.

His previous positions include vice president of advertising for a Georgia

Please see **ROBBINS/2A**

Visit us on social media

Did you know? Ingvar Kamprad
IKEA founder, died at the age of 91. Read about it on page 2A

The big number
6 number of Grammys won this year by Bruno Mars. Page 8A

Word of the Day: haughty
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A.

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Classified 1D | Comics 8C | Dear Abby 3B | Obituaries 2A | Puzzles 7C | Sports 1C | TV 3B

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Stabbing suspect charged with aggravated assault with deadly weapon

From staff reports

A 27-year-old Midland man was being held Sunday on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in connection with a stabbing that occurred at about 4 p.m. Saturday, according to the city's spokeswoman.

Bond has not yet been set for Leo Brito, according to the Midland County Sheriff's Office website. Brito also was charged with two misdemeanors — driving while intoxicated and evading arrest/detention.

The stabbing victim — an adult male — was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital and remains in critical condition, Elana Ladd said via email.

Officers responded at about 4:15 p.m. to the report of a stabbing in the 1900 block of Bryant. The investigation is continuing.

Ingvar Kamprad, who founded furniture giant IKEA, dies at 91

By Karl Ritter
Associated Press



Ola Torkelsson/TT via AP

A visitor takes a photo of founder of Swedish multinational furniture retailer IKEA, Ingvar Kamprad, at the IKEA museum on Sunday in Almhult, Sweden. The portrait of Kamprad on the wall is made out of a big amount of small portraits of employees. Kamprad died Saturday, aged 91.

STOCKHOLM — IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad, who turned a small-scale mail order business started on his family's farm into a furniture empire by letting customers piece together his simple and inexpensive furniture themselves, has died at age 91.

Kamprad died on Saturday at his home in Smaland, in southern Sweden, the chain's Swedish unit, IKEA Sverige, said on Twitter on Sunday. He died peacefully following a short illness, it said.

"He will be much missed and warmly remembered by his family and IKEA staff all around the world," the company said.

The IKEA Group's president, Jesper Brodin, said Kamprad's "legacy will be admired for many years to come and his vision — to create a better everyday life for many people — will continue to guide and inspire us."

Kamprad's life story is intimately linked to the company he founded at age 17 on the family farm. His work ethic, frugality and down-to-earth style remain at the core of its corporate identity today. But his missteps in life, including early flirtations with Nazism, never rubbed off on IKEA, one of the world's most recognizable brands.

Along the way, Kamprad became extremely rich, though estimates of his wealth vary wildly, from slightly more than $100 million to nearly $60 billion when he died.

Kamprad formed the company's name from his own initials and the first letters of the family farm, Elmtaryd, and the parish where it's located, Agunnaryd. The farm is in the heart of Smaland, a forested province whose people are known for their thrift and ingenuity, qualities Kamprad possessed.

Kamprad, despite his wealth, never adopted the aura of a tycoon, though his name regularly appeared on lists of the world's richest men. He drove a modest Volvo and dressed unassumingly. In a 1998 book he co-authored about IKEA's history, he described his habit of visiting vegetable street markets right before they closed for the day, hoping to get better prices.

His reputation for living modestly became part of a carefully crafted image perpetuated by him and his company, his former executive assistant Johan Stenebo said.

"He wanted to appear a man of the people, one of us," Stenebo wrote in a behind-the-scenes book, "The Truth About Ikea," released shortly after he left the company nearly a decade ago.

Kamprad, who was born on March 30, 1926, was a precocious entrepreneur who sold matchboxes to neighbors from his bicycle. He found that he could buy the matchboxes in bulk very cheaply from Stockholm and sell them at a low price but still make a good profit. From matches, he expanded to selling fish, Christmas tree decorations, seeds and later ballpoint pens and pencils.

Obituaries



Kevin Green

Kevin Green, 47, of Midland, passed away on January 24, 2018.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at True-Lite Christian Fellowship Church.

Kevin was born in Longview, Texas on May 5, 1970. He grew up in Midland and graduated from Midland High School in 1988. He later earned an Associate of Arts degree from Trinity Valley Community College in 2007. On May 29, 2009, he married Cheryl Lynn Mitchell, who he renamed Shirley Jean!

Kevin loved to cook and to keep others laughing. He was one who appeared a little "rough around the edges;" however, when you got to know him, you knew he would give you the shirt off his back. He might cuss you out before he gave it to you, but he would give you that and more! He worked for RTS Energy Services for several years and made many friends during his tenure there.

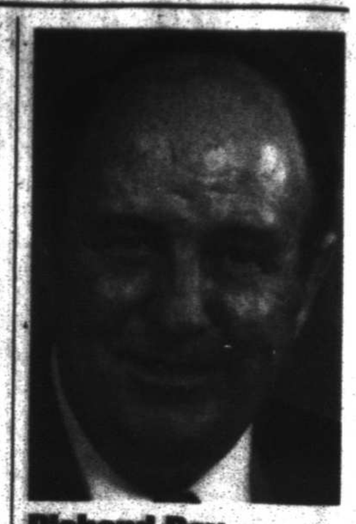
He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Mitchell-Green; his son, Joe Lewis "Jo Jo" Jackson, (with a special acknowledgement of D'Marion "DeDe" Jackson who was like a son); stepchildren, Albert and Ebony Hall; brothers, Johnny Green and Larry Green, both of Midland, and Luke Green of Sterling City; seven step grandkids; one step-great grandchild, Jordan, who knew how to melt his Paw-Paw's heart; and by one niece and several nephews .

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bobby and Pearline Green, and one brother, Bobby Joe Green.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Alex for always being there and all the RTS Energy Services co-workers and friends.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at *www.npwelch.com* .

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory (432) 559-5800



Richard Ray Stailey

Richard Ray Stailey, 76, of Midland, passed away on January 25, 2018.

Memorial services will be held at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Richard was born July 30, 1941 to Jeremiah and Lora Stailey in Callisburg, Texas. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He married Patricia Coomer on March 20, 1967 in Gainsville, Texas. Richard had a good sense of humor and enjoyed a good laugh. Richard was an avid reader of historical novels and an avid gardener. He was a long time member of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE.)

He is survived by his wife Patricia (Pat) Stailey of Midland; a sister, Geraldine Bryant and husband Fred of Callisburg, Texas; and nephews, Larry Wallace and wife Debbie of Callisburg, Jerry Mac Stailey of Wichita Falls, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two brothers, John Stailey and Jerry Mac Stailey.

The family would like to express their gratitude toward the members of First Christian Church, members of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, and the doctors and staff of Midland Memorial Hospital Emergency Room.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to The American Heart Association, 3205 W Cuthbert Ave, Ste A5, Midland, TX 79701 or the First Christian Church, 1301 W. Louisana Ave, Midland, Texas 79701.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at *www.npwelch.com* .

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory (432) 559-5800

All Obituaries must be submitted by 3:30 P.M. prior to next publication day.

Oil

From 1A

that these companies are serious about becoming more financially disciplined."

Discipline is critical at times like these. Because the only thing propping up prices is a commitment by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its partners, most importantly Russia, to keep 1.8 million barrels a day in spare capacity off the market.

That's a dangerously fragile deal on which to bet an investor's money.

This month's higher prices are also unlikely to last, if most reputable analysts are correct. Most have forecast an average price of $55 for West Texas Intermediate in 2018, and $60 for Brent, the international benchmark.

While oil gets most of the attention, a more interesting and equally important commodity is natural gas, which recently surpassed coal to become the dominant fuel used to generate electricity in the U.S. Between wells drilled specifically for gas, and the huge amount produced from oil wells, America is awash in the stuff.

Rock-bottom prices, though, are leading electric companies to build more gas-fired power plants and shut down coal-fired facilities. This year, the U.S. also will become a net exporter of natural gas for the first time since 1957, with billions of cubic feet loaded onto tankers as liquefied natural gas or flowing to Mexico, at least as long as the North American Free Trade Agreement remains intact.

The energy revolution, though, is about more than fossil fuels. Forty-three corporations in 10 countries directly contracted for 5.4 gigawatts of electricity produced by wind and solar sources in 2017, smashing the previous record of 4.4 gigawatts in 2015, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

A gigawatt is enough power for 700,000 homes, and that kind of growth is cutting into demand for coal and natural gas as well. Soon renewable energy will power automobiles as well.

Analysts at Bank of America-Merrill Lynch last week said electric cars will take 40 percent of the personal transportation market by 2030, and 90 percent by 2050. They also expect demand for oil to peak in 2035, which is in line with predictions made by Royal Dutch Shell and consulting firm Wood Mackenzie.

While that may sound like the distant future, most large oil companies make major investment decisions on 20-year or 30-year time frames. Which brings us back to the oil executive's quandary: Will future oil prices generate enough profit to justify the investment decision they must make today?

There are many reasons the price of oil and natural gas could rise or fall precipitously. OPEC and Russia are unpredictable, Venezuela is in chaos, and a global recession could cut off demand at the knees.

In unpredictable periods like this one, keeping debt low and profits high is the only sure way to survive whatever comes next. And that's where smart energy executives and investors will concentrate.

Conaway

From 1A

system to determine who qualifies and who does not. But the background check can't be implemented all at once.

"The problem is we have millions working in production agriculture — in dairies, on farms, in fields — that if we went to immediate E-Verify and (workers) tried to move to different employers, they couldn't work," the congressmen from Midland said. "We need a transition period to 100 percent E-Verify."

Conaway, who is chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, said some of his colleagues want to make everybody leave the country, apply to work in the U.S. and come back. Doing this to agriculture laborers could threaten the food supply because so many undocumented workers are employed in that industry.

"I don't know what you get public policy-wise if you're talking about guys who are dismembering cow bodies, chickens or whatever. What's the public policy you get that is worthy by making someone go back to Mexico and then come back," he said. "If what you want is to know who's here, they're legal and you know they can work, that's the endgame, so make that as least difficult as you can."

Plus, forcing people out of the country en masse isn't wise.

"Flushing people out won't yield a lot of voluntary compliance because these people had too hard of a time getting here. There just won't be any trust," Conaway said. "Let's assume it's 3 million people. Do you think we have the consular capacity in Mexico to run 3 million people through background checks and all this stuff we want to get done while crops rot and cows don't get milked? It's not in our best interest to cut our nose off to spite our face."

Conaway proposes staggering the E-Verify requirement under Rep. Bob Goodlatte's immigration bill for the agriculture industry to reduce its impact.

"I think there's a way to handle the ag worker piece that's not amnesty but is efficient and allows our producers to continue to produce and allow us to eat at the costs that are currently there," he said. "What we don't want to have happen is run all of these producers out of business because they don't have workers or raise the cost of food for the average American. Half the country is living paycheck to paycheck, and the cost of food is a really big deal."

When asked if there was any way for undocumented workers to get all of their paperwork done without leaving the country, he replied: "Not under Goodlatte's bill."

As for President Donald Trump's proposed wall between the U.S. and Mexico, "Funding for the wall is in the spending plan, at least the initial part," Conaway said. "You don't need to fund the whole wall right off the bat because you can't get it all built right off the bat. I think we've got $1.6 billion to $1.8 billion in the 2018 spending plan right now. That should be plenty of money to complete what they physically can get done in the next eight months."

Budget deal

The recent budget deal, which only extended funding the government for three weeks, was snarled by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) issue, which allows some who entered the country illegally as minors be able to have a work permit and have their cases delayed. Senate Democrats, led by Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, used DACA as a tool to hold up a budget deal. What resulted was a short government shutdown.

Conaway wasn't pleased.

"There are no winners in that deal," he said. "Republicans look less bad than the Democrats. Schumer is awful; he picked a fight he never should have picked. He's typically been a better politician than that."

Conaway criticized Democrats for picking DACA, "for as important of an issue as that is," and pinning it against everything else in the bill. The congressman added that DACA was all Democrats had in their arsenal.

"(Republicans) did a good job of not putting anything in the bill that was a poison pill," he said. "We didn't make them gag down anything at all because that would have allowed Schumer to point to that instead of DACA. He was stuck; he could only point to DACA."

Conaway said Trump "did not weaponize the shutdown like (President Barack) Obama did."

"(Trump) tried to make it as low-key as possible," he said. "I dare say, other than certain non-essential folks getting a day off, on my money you couldn't really find any real impact on what happened. That's the right thing."

Robbins

From 1A

media company; group advertising manager for the News & Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina, and advertising director for the N&O's twice-weekly Cary News; and general manager and advertising director for the Wake Weekly in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

"I am excited to join the Midland Reporter-Telegram team and look forward to getting to know the people and businesses that make Midland and West Texas a great place to work and live," Robbins said. "The opportunity to bring my years of experience in digital and print advertising to a growing market like Midland was very appealing to me."

Robbins, who originally is from Richmond, Kentucky, has a bachelor of business administration from Eastern Kentucky University. He has one son, Noah, 20, who attends college in Georgia.

His community involvement includes membership on the marketing committees of United Way of Central Georgia and Macon (Georgia) Cultural Arts Council. He is a graduate of Leadership Macon, Leadership Cary and Leadership Wake Forest.

Robbins can be contacted at drobbins@mrt.com or 687-8808.

Arrests

From 1A

coming in, and they're bringing their crooked ways with them," Painter said.

The sheriff said people arrested for drug- and alcohol-related offenses have long formed a portion of those in the Central Detention Center. But he said there seems to be an increase in people coming to the jail on drug charges.

The Midland area may not be the only one in Texas experiencing a rising number of arrests.

Statewide, total drug-abuse violations increased 6.7 percent from 2015 to 2016, according to DPS data.

Locally, 30 percent of cases in the DA's office are drug-related. After adding driving while intoxicated cases, the portion is about 45 percent, Nodolf said.

Those figures factored into the decision to create a Drug Court, which aims to help offenders receive assistance for substance abuse.

"When you have that many individuals who are coming into the jail and are unable to bond out, it's costing taxpayers money," Nodolf said. "So we want to find an efficient manner to assist these individuals who are willing to accept responsibility for their offenses who do not appear to be a risk to our community."

District judges are searching for a candidate to appoint as a magistrate.

The person would preside over the Drug Court and hold a full-time position, according to Nodolf.

TODAYINMIDLAND

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
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Haughty
[haw-tee]
adjective
1. disdainfully proud; snobbish; scornfully arrogant; supercilious.



Things to do

■ Open Shop Nights are hosted by the Midland Gem and Mineral Society and open to the public. Visitors can watch members cut rock and work on lapidary projects. 6:30-9 p.m. at 602 S. Main St. midlandgemandmineral.org.

■ Bingo, 6 p.m. at the Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

■ Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 682-8595.

■ Monday Mayhem features unlimited bowling for $14.09 with free shoe rentals after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

■ "Of Ebony Embers — Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance," 7 p.m. at Wagner and Brown Auditorium at Midland College, 4600 N. Garfield St. Free. midland.edu.

Meetings today

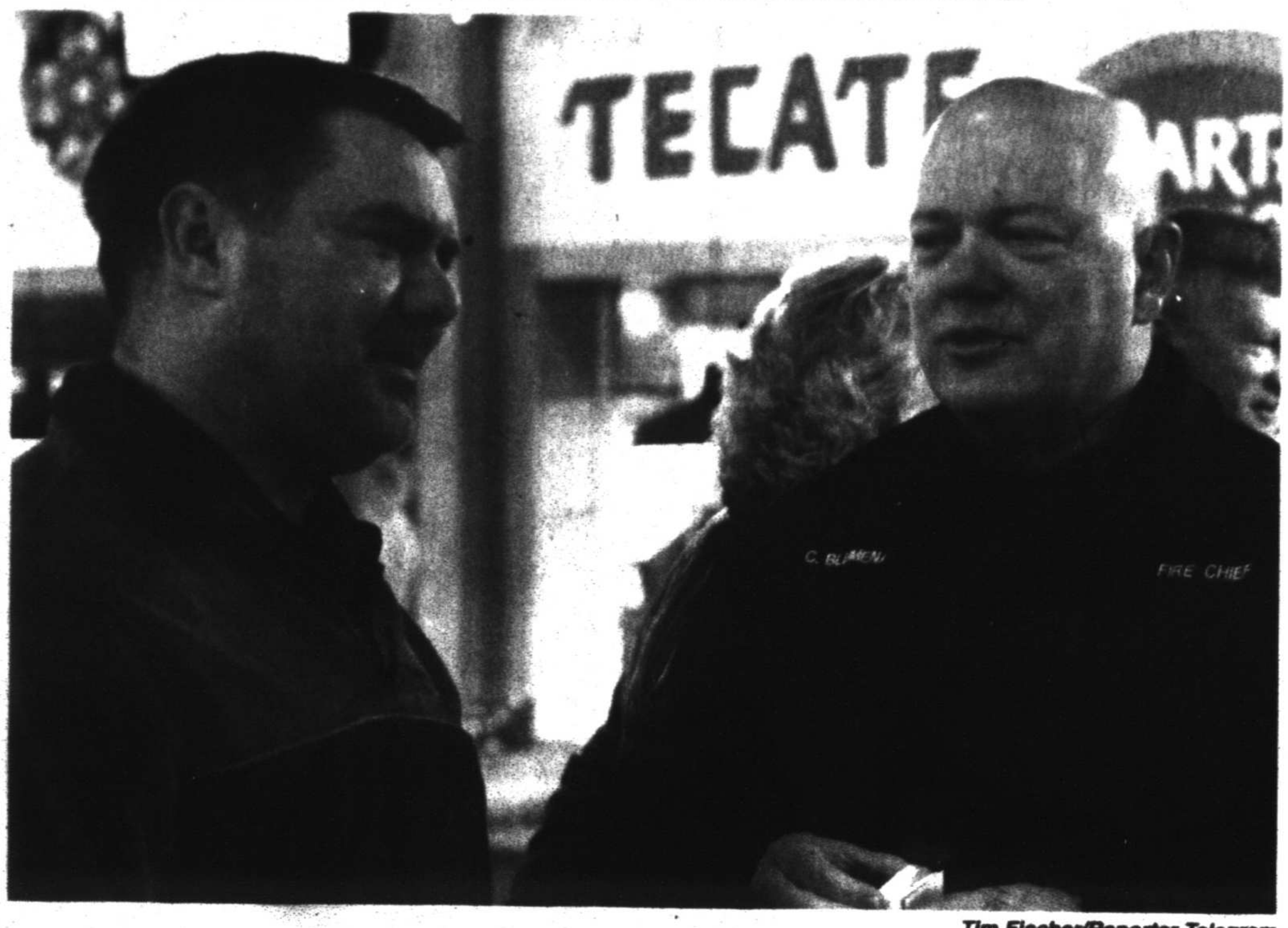
Commissioners' Court
9 a.m.
Midland County Courthouse auxiliary courtroom.
500 N. Loraine Ave.

Autism SHARE Walk planned

The ninth annual Autism SHARE Walk is planned for April 28 at Grande Communications Stadium. The event includes a resource fair representing more than 40 local agencies and activities for children. The walk will begin at 9:30 a.m.; registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Sponsors Market Street and Coca Cola will provide lunch; all of the proceeds will be donated to SHARE.

To register for the walk, go to autismSHAREwalk.com. For more information, call 818-1250.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Stacey Ream, left, talks with Midland's new fire chief, Charles Blumenauer, his childhood friend, Thursday at a meet-and-greet. Steve Henry, the city's new police chief, and Mayor Jerry Morales also attended the event at Rosa's Café on North Big Spring Street.

Today in history

Today is Monday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2018. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On **Jan. 29, 1845**, Edgar Allan Poe's famous narrative poem "The Raven" ("Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary...") was first published in the New York Evening Mirror.

On this date:

In **1919**, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In **1936**, the first inductees of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, New York.

In **1958**, actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were married in Las Vegas.

In **1975**, a bomb exploded inside the U.S. State Department in Washington, causing considerable damage, but injuring no one; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility.

In **1984**, President Ronald Reagan announced in a nationally broadcast message that he and Vice President George H.W. Bush would seek re-election in the fall.

Ten years ago: Raymond Jacobs, believed to be the last surviving member of the group of Marines photographed during the first U.S. flag-raising on Iwo Jima, died in Redding, California, at age 82.

Today's birthdays: Actress Katharine Ross is 78. Actor Tom Selleck is 73. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 64. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 58. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is 48.

Weather

Sunday's temperatures
High 64
Low 23
Normal high 59
Normal low 31

Jan. 28's records
Record high: 79, set in 1987
Record low: 10, set in 1948

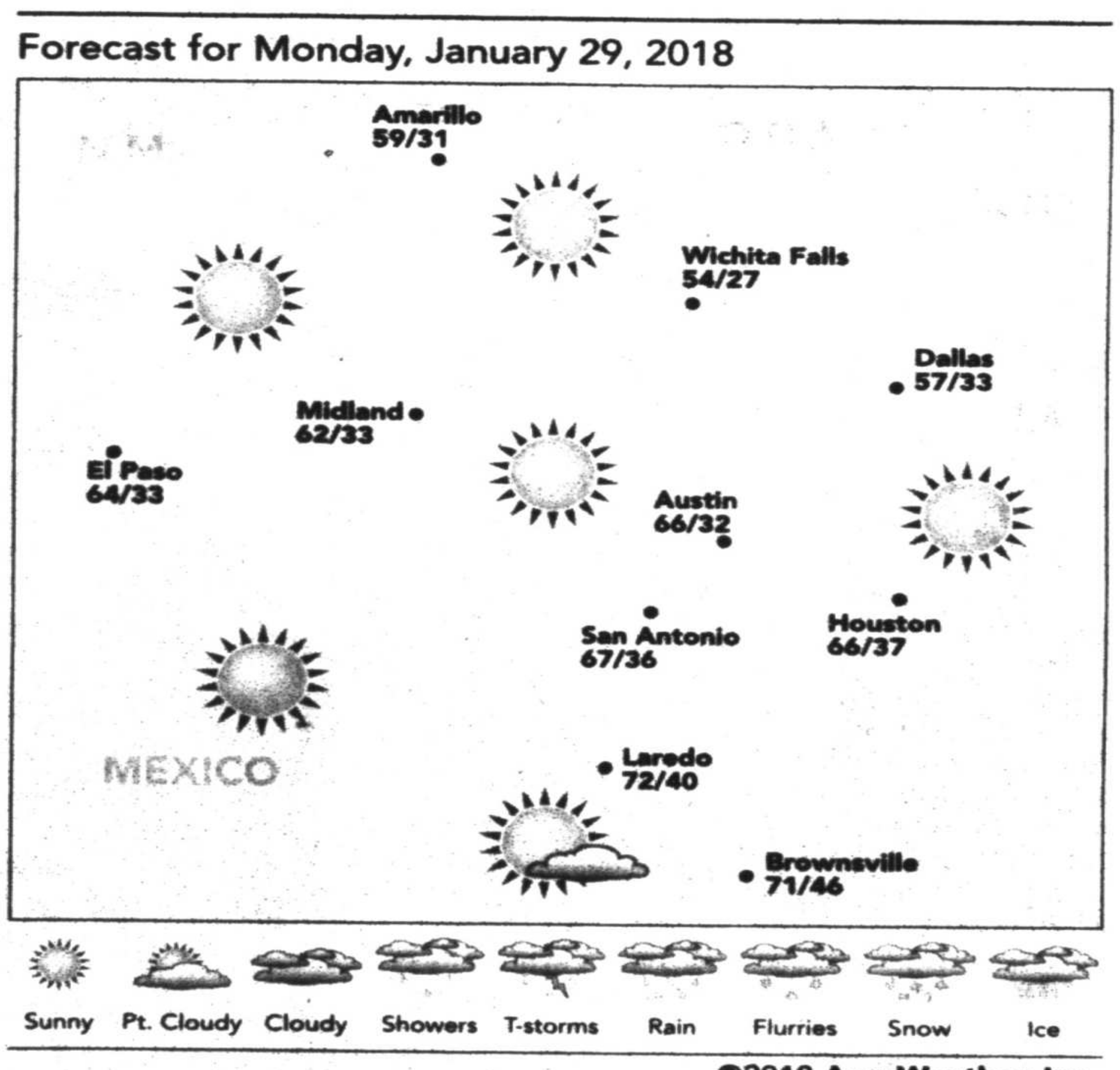
Precipitation
Saturday .... 0.00 in.
Sunday .... 0.00 in.
Month total .... 0.01 in.
Year total .... 0.01 in.
Normal total (year to date) .... 0.49 in.

Winds
Wind speed: 10 mph
Gust speed: 12 mph

Today's forecast
High: 61
Low: 36
Conditions: Sunny today/clear tonight
Winds: Southeast 5 mph
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise .... 7:44 a.m.
Sunset .... 6:20 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

Forecast for Monday, January 29, 2018



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
■ How do I submit an announcement for a wedding or engagement? weddings@mrt.com

■ How can I submit an obituary? obits@mrt.com

■ How can I handle a billing problem?
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Advertising: 687-8806

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Saturday, Sunday & holidays: 7 a.m.-10 a.m.
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-dynamic; 4-positive; 3-average; 2-so-so; 1-difficult

Note: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Aquarius and a Moon in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for **Monday, Jan. 29, 2018:**
This year you are able to act on wonderful ideas. Just make sure that the concepts you decide to pioneer will work well for you without needing to take big risks. Try to avoid linking up with someone who encourages wild spending. If you are single, take your time getting to know a person well. You will discover that you have many choices, and you'll want to make the right choice. If you are attached, you will be able to establish a more upbeat life with your sweetie. The two of you will want to pursue a mutual long-term goal. CANCER might be a bit too nurturing.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Listen carefully to news. A power play could backfire without any positive results. Opportunities become more positive as you distance yourself from the immediate struggle. One-on-one relating draws the support of a loved one or a dear friend. **Tonight:** Mosey on home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Reach out to associates and friends who care a lot about you. These people add to the quality of your life with their suggestions and support. Someone might push to have you think along the same lines that he or she does, but it is unlikely to work. **Tonight:** Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You can create more of what you want. Observe a tendency to become too self-involved to appreciate a suggestion or two that might bring better results than what you are presently seeing. Tackle a project with enthusiasm. **Tonight:** Respond to a close friend's inquiry.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You are determined to create much more of what you want. Be careful, as you might find yourself on a collision course. Even though you feel unstoppable, you could hit a problem. Back off and find a less perilous path than the one you are on. **Tonight:** Time for fun and games.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Understand that just because timing isn't on your side, it doesn't mean you should stop pursuing a goal. You will learn why you are put on hold soon enough. Take a step back and observe more. A family member helps you relax in the present situation. **Tonight:** At home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could be drawn into a private conversation by an associate. You will be very content with what is being said. You might be more vested in what is going on than others realize. Make a suggestion or two that could make a significant difference. **Tonight:** Visit with friends first.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Others listen to your words more carefully than you realize. You might keep stating your thoughts differently, as you'll want to make sure you are heard. Encourage others to come forward and share their feelings. **Tonight:** Assess how different your views are from a friend's.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might opt to blaze a new trail. Others watch you and wonder if that same path could make a difference in their lives as well. Ignore any harsh comments you hear. Curb a tendency to feel as if you are right and let everyone know. **Tonight:** You are more carefree than usual.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Deal with a partner directly. How you understand what is being shared is a lot different from how others interpret what they have heard. Use caution with a money deal. There could be a deceptive element at play with regard to your funds. **Tonight:** Make time for a dear friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to try a new approach or be more responsive to other points of view. Give up trying to make your view the right one for everyone. Your instincts will kick in as far as how to find an agreement between you and others. **Tonight:** Make the most of the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You might want to be more grounded than you have been in the recent past. How you deal with a changing situation involving a partnership could have an effect on your financial situation. Avoid taking big risks. **Tonight:** A key person observes how you handle yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You have a strong sense of how to deal with someone you care about. Social pressure builds, and you might feel as if you must take action. News from a distance proves to be overwhelming. Look at new possibilities with a positive attitude. **Tonight:** Be a wild thing!

BORN TODAY
Media proprietor Oprah Winfrey (1954), actor Tom Selleck (1945), actress Sara Gilbert (1975)

Love Where You Live
The Village at Manor Park

TREE REMOVAL
CONTACT THE PROFESSIONALS AT
alldredge
TO REMOVE DEAD OR UNWANTED TREES



Eric Gay/AP Photo

Texas Democratic Congressman Beto O'Rourke, center, greets supporters following a town hall meeting Jan. 6 in Mission. **BELOW:** O'Rourke, right, gives a "thumbs-up" to a supporter. O'Rourke, right, passes a "No Border Wall" sign during a visit to the National Butterfly Center, a possible location for a border wall. O'Rourke, center, runs with supporters and others interested in meeting him Jan. 7 in McAllen. O'Rourke is forsaking a safe seat in Congress and a rising-star career for the longest of odds in an attempt to unseat Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz. A Democrat hasn't captured a Senate seat in Texas since 1988.

Democrat risks rising-star status in long-shot race

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

MCALLEN — He's running for U.S. Senate but as the Sunday morning sun rose over a park near the Texas-Mexico border, Democratic Congressman Beto O'Rourke had another run in mind.

Wearing well-worn shorts and sneakers, the onetime punk rock guitarist was leading a group of supporters on a jog around a duck-dotted pond. Not everyone was game, though, including 76-year-old retiree Merrie DeVoe who said she'd instead be going to church.

"But we'll be praying for you," DeVoe said.

That could come in handy because O'Rourke looks not to have a prayer of unseating incumbent Republican Ted Cruz, whose presidential campaign only two years ago racked up millions of GOP primary votes nationwide. Even before Cruz, O'Rourke's party hadn't won a Senate seat in deep-red Texas since Lloyd Bentsen was re-elected in 1988.

High-energy and bilingual, with a lanky, 6-foot-4 frame and a mop of dark hair that's begun turning a distinguished gray, the 45-year-old O'Rourke reminds some Democrats and even a few Texas Republicans of a Spanish-speaking Kennedy.

But many wonder why he's giving up a rising-star congressional career and safe seat in his native El Paso for a race that looks unwinnable.

"It's going to be hard but it's absolutely worth doing," O'Rourke said over lunch of chicken fajitas at Jose's Cafecito restaurant in the nearby town of Weslaco, amid a blitz of recent campaign events along the border. "The odds are certainly long."

Still, he said he saw little hope of changing the country's direction under President Donald Trump by just returning to the House.

So lately, he's been holding jogging sessions, rallies and town halls across the state while raising a respectable nearly $4 million.

If it's a suicide mission, O'Rourke's campaign is a colorful one, with lively, occasionally profane rhetoric and attention-getting events that sometimes seem as much about partying as policy.

He wants to legalize marijuana and ease immigration policies and opposes Trump's border wall, likening it to the Berlin Wall that future generations will rue. But O'Rourke says also he's courting Trump voters because the president has "asked the right questions about people who have felt left behind."

At his rallies, he invites anyone to ask him anything, which provides openings to slag his own party.

"I feel like the Democratic Party up in D.C. is corporate politics," O'Rourke told the audience of around 250 quaffing microbrews at an open-air beer garden stop. "They're listening to the corporations and the special interests and the PACs. And the folks who write the checks are calling the tune. It's not you, and it's not me."

O'Rourke opposed ending the government shutdown, accusing the top Democrat in the Senate, Chuck Schumer, of "offering a wall to the president in exchange for doing obvious, correct things." He said his party shouldn't have made concessions in return for Republican assurances to soon take up legislation on young immigrant "dreamers" brought to the country illegally.

A booming Hispanic population means Texas could one day be more favorable to Democrats, but the demographic shift won't come fast enough to help O'Rourke. He also supports abortion rights, which is a tough Texas sell — even among some Hispanic Democrats who are devout Catholics.

O'Rourke's campaign has refused outside political money and doesn't employ consultants. Before announcing his Senate run, O'Rourke called U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, head of the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee, about possible financial help.

"He said, 'Hey Beto, I've got to tell you, from the DSCC's perspective, I would be fired for malpractice if I invested any money in Texas,'" O'Rourke recalled.

O'Rourke said he hopes to woo Republicans angry that Cruz spent so much time outside Texas running for president. O'Rourke pledges to campaign in each of Texas' 254 counties before the election.

Along the way, he's drawn larger-than-expected crowds, even in deeply conservative, rural areas like Lubbock.



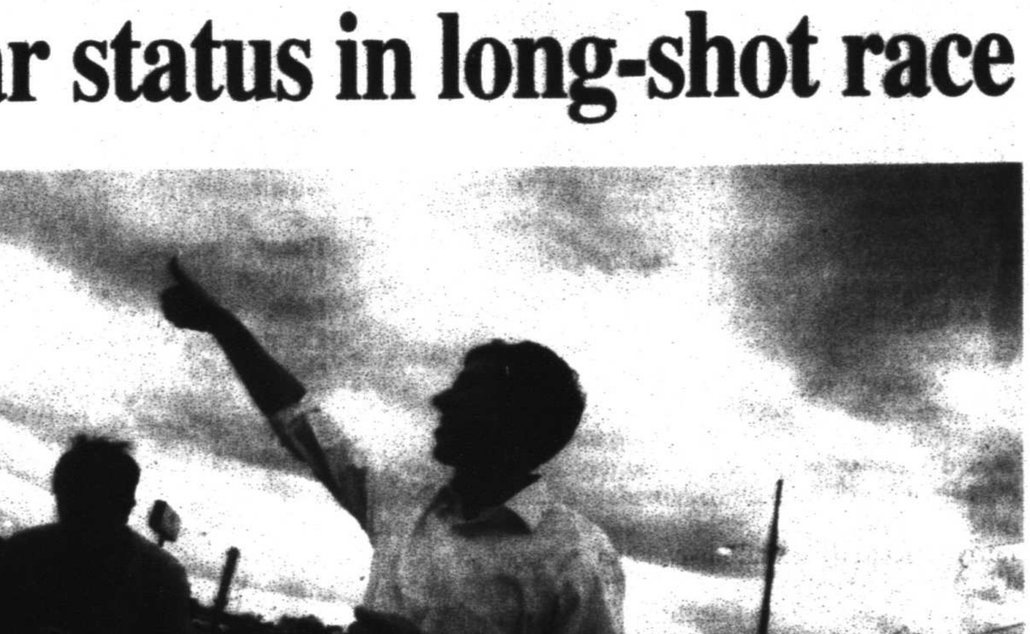
"If anyone can do it, Beto can," said Illiana Noemi Holguin, chairwoman of the El Paso Democratic Party. She said he's laying a foundation for his party's future candidates by "going to all of these small, rural counties where, frankly, not a lot of Democratic candidates have gone."

U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, a Democrat from Laredo, said O'Rourke rallies in border towns could help improve traditionally low turnout in one of Texas' few reliably blue strongholds: "He's trying to build up the enthusiasm."

Cruz, believing he's comfortably ahead, has decided he can largely ignore O'Rourke through November. At last count this fall, Cruz's campaign fund was worth around $6 million compared to O'Rourke's roughly $2.8 million. Asked about criticisms that Cruz was more interested in being president than senator, a spokeswoman didn't mention O'Rourke while saying Cruz has "kept the promises he made" to Texans.

Even some at O'Rourke's events aren't expecting miracles. "I don't think it's necessarily about winning the race as much as it is slowly changing the tide where, maybe next race, it is winnable," said Pete Banda, 26, who attended a town hall in San Benito.

A fourth generation Irish-American whose favorite phrase is "right on," O'Rourke is the son of a longtime Democratic county judge and a Republican mother "who we've almost convinced to vote for me." His first name is Robert but his parents called him Beto from birth.





In the summers between semesters at Columbia University, where he studied English literature, O'Rourke played guitar and occasionally bass for an El Paso punk band called Foss. Bandmate Cedric Bixler-Zavala later fronted the better-known act The Mars Volta.

O'Rourke stops short of calling his campaign punk rock-inspired but does see similarities.

Punk rock means acting "without waiting for the corporation or someone else, somewhere else, to give you orders, or to show you how to do it," he said.

#MeToo movement starting to show generational divides

By David Crary and Tamara Lush
Associated Press



Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman via AP

Demonstrators hold signs during a Women's March Jan. 20 in Austin on the anniversary of President Donald Trump's inauguration. On the anniversary of President Donald Trump's inauguration, people participating in rallies and marches in the U.S. and around the world Saturday denounced his views on immigration, abortion, LGBT rights, women's rights and more.

Where there has been solidarity and safety in numbers in the #MeToo movement, there is now also an increasingly apparent generational divide. And it's not just among women.

Compared to their elders, younger women are seen as generally more willing to speak out about being sexually harassed, and bring a new set of expectations to their sexual relationships. There are also generational differences in approach to dating relationships, and in expectations that, if spoken, their concerns about sexual misconduct would be received without repercussion.

Baby Boomer women "took it for granted they wouldn't be heard" by men, especially in sexual situations, said Amy Lynch, a Nashville-based consultant who helps employers navigate generational relationships in the workplace. Millennial women — those in their 20s and 30s — are more likely to have grown up in environment supportive of gender equality, with the expectation — not always fulfilled — that they'll be attentively listened to in those circumstances.

"I have sometimes joked that my generation is feminism's Frankensteins," said Courtney Martin, 38, an author and blogger. "Our mothers raised us to believe we deserved sexual equality, but now that we're actually demanding it, it can seem overly entitled or sensitive to them."

Debra Katz, a Washington lawyer specializing in cases of sexual harassment and sex discrimination, says younger women make up the bulk of clients bringing complaints to her firm.

"Women historically felt they would immediately lose their job if they came forward with sexual harassment complaints," Katz said. "Among the younger generation, people are not suffering in silence... The advice they're getting now is to come forward and report it."

Generational differences surfaced in two highly publicized offshoots of the #MeToo movement earlier this month.

In France, there was a notable backlash — led by younger women — in response to an open letter signed by 74-year-old movie star Catherine Deneuve and dozens of other women about men being unfairly targeted by sexual misconduct allegations. Among those assailing Deneuve were feminist Caroline De Haas, 37, and France's gender equality minister, 35-year-old Marlene Schiappa.

In the U.S., some perceived a generational gap in reaction to the detailed account by a woman identified as "Grace" of a sexual encounter with comedian Aziz Ansari that left her feeling disrespected and abused. Among older women, there were suggestions that Grace should have been more vocal and assertive in dealing with what amounted to a bad date. Among younger women, there was blame for Ansari and suggestions he had pressured Grace without heeding her words and body language.

Among millennial men such as Ansari — who is 34 — there's a cultural contradiction at play, according to sociologist W. Bradford Wilcox, director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia.

"There's a public embrace of more egalitarian, feminist sensibilities and ideas," he said, but that often doesn't carry over to their private approach to sexual encounters.

As for millennial women, Wilcox said, "there's a tension between what they're expecting in terms of men being more egalitarian, and then finding in private that things don't match their expectations."

At a crowded coffee shop in St. Petersburg, Florida, Lauren Caplinger, 20, said this moment in gender relations is an "overwhelming" and "ambiguous" time for both sexes.

"The set rules and lines, things that we thought were rules, are kind of dissipating, and everything is becoming blurry," said Caplinger, a public relations major at the University of South Florida.

On one hand, she felt comfortable enough to go up to a guy at a club and offer to buy him a drink — something her mother chided her for — and on the other, is curious about some of the dating rituals of old that she's heard her mother and grandmother talk about.

"I haven't been picked up for a date in like, pfft, ever," she said. "I've always wanted my way out in case I want to leave."

A few seats away, Kelsey Stephenson, 28, discussed the differences she sees in how older and younger women view the #MeToo movement.

Older women look at the some of the troublesome incidents and assume, "that's the way men are, and we had to deal with that," Stephenson said. "Younger women have the vocabulary and tools to describe it... These are conversations that are uncomfortable but are important to get to a better place in society."

Millennial women "think that men should be more in tune with the way a woman says things," said Nicole Slaughter, 31, a freelance journalist. "The culture has changed so much, so quickly. We're still feeling out where the line should be drawn on these kinds of behaviors."

A former president of the National Organization for Women, Kim Gandy, is heartened by the increasing willingness of younger women to speak up about workplace harassment. She recalled working for a telephone company in Louisiana in the 1970s where a district manager remained on the job long after word spread among female employees about his predatory behavior.

"There was an expectation of rotten behavior being something that went with the territory," Gandy said. "Today there would have been a much quicker response."

Yet Gandy is cautious about predicting a generational sea change. She's now CEO of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and says the age group of 18-to-24-year-olds has one of the highest levels of dating violence and domestic violence.

Jeremy Fischbach, 39, a New Orleans-based entrepreneur who has written about "redefining masculinity," says he'd like to be hopeful about the future of gender relations, but sees a worrisome void on the male side.

"Who are the younger generation going to emulate and follow?" he asked. "Where are the good ideas and the good men? How do we get young men on that path, so they're not bragging about how many women and girls they slept with, but how many they supported?"

Rubio fires chief of staff for improper behavior

By Alex Daugherty and Franco Ordonez
Miami Herald

WASHINGTON — Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., fired his chief of staff Saturday after determining that he engaged in inappropriate behavior with subordinates.

Rubio said Clint Reed, his chief of staff since January 2017, was fired for violating office policies regarding proper relations between a supervisor and subordinates, and threatening to withhold employee benefits.

"Yesterday (Friday) afternoon, I was made aware, for the first time, of allegations of improper conduct by my chief of staff while under the employment of my office," Rubio said in a statement. "These allegations were reported directly to me instead of our general counsel or the Congressional Office of Compliance. Immediately upon receiving this complaint, I along with our general counsel, began an investigation of this matter."

Rubio then concluded that there was sufficient evidence that Reed "had violated office policies regarding proper relations between a supervisor and their subordinates. I further concluded that this led to actions which in my judgment amounted to threats to withhold employment benefits."

He then traveled to Washington from Florida and fired Reed Saturday evening.

Reed could not be reached for comment and Rubio's office asked for privacy, citing the wishes of those victimized by Reed's conduct.

"We have taken steps to ensure that those impacted by this conduct have access to any services they may require now or in the future," Rubio said in a statement. "Pursuant to the wishes of those victimized by this conduct, we will not be disclosing any further details about the incidents which occurred."

Reed, an Arkansas native, managed the Florida Republican's successful 2016 U.S. Senate campaign.

He also worked on Rubio's presidential campaign as a senior adviser and Iowa State director. He held previous posts with the Republican National Committee and the Republican Party of Arkansas.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Police: Gunman who killed 4 at car wash on life support

By Bruce Shipkowski
Associated Press

A man opened fire and killed four people at a car wash early Sunday morning in Pennsylvania, while another woman suffered only minor injuries after she hid in the back seat of a truck during the shooting, state police said.

Police said suspected shooter Tim Smith was on life support at a hospital after the shooting at Ed's Car Wash around 3 a.m. in the Melcroft community of Saltlick Township, about 55 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

They said he killed 27-year-old William Porterfield, 23-year-old Chelsie Cline, 23-year-old Courtney Snyder and 21-year-old Seth Cline.

Police earlier said that a fifth person was pronounced dead at a hospital but they announced at a late afternoon news conference that the shooter remained on life support.

The survivor was not shot and suffered only minor injuries, they said.

Police said they were not able to speak with Smith at the hospital and they did not say whether Smith knew the victims.

Family members of the victims told WPXI-TV that the shooting was the result of a domestic dispute. They claim the shooter was a man who used to date one of the victims.

Cayleigh Myers said she was friends with Seth Cline and described the construction worker as "very outgoing, very funny and very smart."

"You always had fun when you were around him," Myers said. "He would give his shirt off his back for you, anything, it didn't matter what it was, what time it was, if you need him, you could call him. He was everything."

Ed Bukovac, who owns the car wash, told the Tribune-Review that a neighbor called him around 4 a.m. Sunday and said something was wrong at his business.

Bukovac said police were on the scene by the time he arrived and that he had few other details about what happened.

A man who lives nearby told the newspaper that he heard about 30 gunshots over a span of several minutes.

State Trooper Robert Broadwater said two of the victims were found inside a pickup truck and two others were found outside in the car wash's parking lot.

Three vehicles were towed from the location. Two were pickup trucks — including the one that two of the victims were found in — and the other was a sedan.

Two charged in decades-old shooting death

Associated Press

ROSWELL, N.M. — Two men face charges in connection with the 1997 death of a man whose body was found in a ditch, in a case that has revolved around trying to locate a man previously charged and believed to be in Mexico.

Tony Gonzales of Roswell was charged Jan. 22 with one count of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Edward Raymond Sanchez, while Gonzalo David Bonilla of Haltom was originally charged Nov. 16 with four felony counts, the Roswell Daily Record reported last week.

All but a first-degree murder charge against Bonilla has been dropped, according to court records.

The actions come after a decision to proceed with charges against the U.S. suspects, Chaves County Sheriff Britt Snyder said.

The men have been released while they await hearings, Snyder said.

Neither Gonzales nor Bonilla has entered a plea yet, and calls to their defense attorneys were not returned.

Gonzales is scheduled to appear in court Feb. 5 for an arraignment, while Bonilla is scheduled to appear Tuesday for a preliminary hearing.

Sanchez was killed in September 1997 at age in what Snyder has called "cold-blooded murder."

His body was found Sept. 20 in a ditch near Bottomless Lakes State Park. His wife had filed a missing persons report Sept. 18 after Sanchez did not return from Gonzales's house the night before. Sheriff's deputies found Sanchez with two gunshots to the head, and an autopsy later concluded that the bullets came from different guns.

Court documents indicated that people at the gathering told authorities that they had seen Sanchez leave the house in the company of Gonzales, Bonilla and Hector Dominguez.

Court documents also allege that Gonzales told at least one person that Sanchez had been killed by Hector Dominguez when the four of them got out of a car to urinate.

It took about three years for an arrest warrant to be issued for Dominguez, who was thought to have left the Roswell area shortly after the killing and was believed to be in Mexico, probably in the Chihuahua area, where he was known to have family.

STATECRIMEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LUBBOCK

Juvenile charged with murder in fatal shooting

Lubbock police say a juvenile is in custody and is charged with murder for the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old.

Police say a vehicle pulled up to a Lubbock hospital Saturday, dropped off gunshot victim Brenden McGuire and then left.

McGuire later was pronounced dead.

Investigators say they were able to find the juvenile and arrest him. Also under arrest is an 18-year-old charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Police say the case remains under investigation.

ROCKWALL

Father in North Texas denies selling daughter for sex

A 31-year-old man jailed in North Texas for selling his teenage daughter for sex is denying the charge.

Child welfare authorities say Steve Marks has seven children from age 1 to 14 and at least three of them previously were removed and placed in foster care.

Marks was arrested Thursday in Rockwall County and held on $1 million bond on charges of purchasing or selling a child for sex. A 31-year-old woman he says is his wife also is charged and jailed. His parents are jailed on charges of harboring a runaway.

Marks tells Dallas TV station WFAA he'd never sell a child for sex and someone who does that "needs to be put away for the rest of their life."

Child welfare officials say the case remains under investigation.

ROSHARON

Inmate says he killed fellow prisoner

Texas prison officials say an inmate serving a life sentence for capital murder in Bexar County has confessed to the slaying of a fellow inmate earlier this month at a Southeast Texas prison.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark says while the slaying remains under investigation, Alfred Brosig told authorities he killed 57-year-old Kenneth Johnson at the Ramsey I Unit in Brazoria County, south of Houston, on Jan. 17.

The Houston Chronicle reports other inmates say Johnson had a radio cord wrapped around his neck and Brosig blew "farewell kisses" as he was led from his cell.

Brusig's prison record goes back to 1990. He's now in a prison psychiatric unit.

Johnson was serving 18 years for engaging in organized criminal activity in Navarro County, south of Dallas.

SAN ANTONIO

Woman fatally shot by police

SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio police are investigating the fatal shooting of a woman at her home by an officer who had been called to do a welfare check.

Authorities say when officers showed up at the home Saturday afternoon, the front door was unlocked and they found a woman behind a closed bedroom door. Police say she told them she wasn't armed but when officers went in, she was holding a semi-automatic pistol.

They tried to disarm her and when police say she aimed the gun at one of the officers, another officer shot her once. The woman died later at a hospital.

The officer, with the department for six years, has been placed on administrative duty.

PALMER

North Texas officer grazed in traffic stop gunfire

Authorities in North Texas say a police officer has avoided serious injury when he was grazed by gunshot during a struggle with a man during a traffic stop.

Ellis County deputies say the officer from Palmer, about 25 miles (40.23 kilometers) south of Dallas, stopped a car Saturday on Interstate 45 and determined one of the people in the car had an outstanding warrant for aggravated sexual assault in Collin County, north of Dallas.

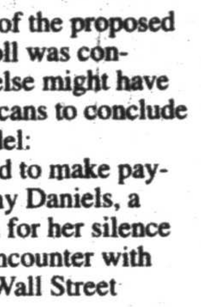
When the man tried to flee on foot, the officer was unsuccessful in subduing him with an electronic stun gun. In the ensuing struggle, he tried to take the officer's gun and it went off, grazing the officer.

The man subsequently was captured and is jailed on the outstanding warrant. Authorities say additional charges are pending.

OPINION

Partisanship now outweighs morality in US

■ In a recent Quinnipiac University poll, 80 percent of Republican respondents said Trump provides 'moral leadership'



DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group

Someday, likely three years from now, perhaps sooner, perhaps — gulp — later, President Trump will depart the stage.

But what will be left of us?

New evidence suggests the damage he is doing to the culture is bigger than the man. A Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday found that two-thirds of Americans say Trump is not a good role model for children. Every component of society feels that way — men and women, old and young, black and white, highly educated or not — except for one: Republicans. By 72 to 22 percent, they say Trump is a good role model.

In marked contrast to the rest of the country, Republicans also say that Trump shares their values (82 percent) and that -- get this — he "provides the United States with moral leadership" (80 percent).

And what moral leadership this role model has been providing.

Soon after the release of this poll, we learned that Trump, in an effort to halt the Russia probe, planned to fire special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, backing off only because his own White House counsel threatened to resign. So Trump obviously didn't speak the truth when he said that he had never contemplated such a firing. And, at this writing, he is in Switzerland, responding by renewing his denunciations of the "fake news" media — an attack on the free press now emulated by despots the world over.

In fairness, we learned of the proposed Mueller firing after the poll was conducted, so let's see what else might have led 72 percent of Republicans to conclude Trump is a good role model:

His lawyer had arranged to make payment to a porn star, Stormy Daniels, a month before the election for her silence about an alleged sexual encounter with Trump, according to the Wall Street Journal.

He had used a vulgar word to describe African countries during a racist rant to lawmakers at the White House.

He was mounting a campaign to discredit the "corrupt" FBI, the Justice Department and the special prosecutor, just as he had previously sought to disqualify courts and judges.

He backed a credibly accused child molester for the Senate from Alabama.

And so on.

Yet so strong is the pull of tribalism that we've reached a point where partisanship outweighs morality. Republicans aren't approving of Trump despite his behavior; in calling him a role model, they're approving his behavior.

No doubt some of those Republicans now condoning Trump's behavior will give the standard rebuttal: What about the Clintons?

Well, Quinnipiac didn't poll nationally during the Clinton presidency, but Gallup, during President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial in January 1999, asked a similar question. The number of Republicans back then saying Clinton did not provide good moral leadership, 91 percent, was similar to the 96 percent of Democrats who say Trump does not provide moral leadership today.

The difference: Democrats disapproved of Clinton's morality by 2 to 1 (65 to 33 percent), even as they overwhelmingly approved of his job performance. Only 16 percent of Republicans today say Trump does not provide moral leadership.

The triumph of partisanship over morality starts at the top. Franklin Graham excused Trump's alleged sexual encounter, and Tony Perkins, the president of the conservative Family Research Council, declared that Trump gets a "mulligan" — a do-over — for his behavior.

Such normalizing of Trump's behavior makes the seediest elements feel safe to crawl out from under their rocks. The FBI reported in November that hate crimes were up again in 2016 after rising in 2015. And the Anti-Defamation League reported that anti-Semitic incidents were "significantly higher" through the first nine months of 2017 — a time in which Trump said there were "very fine people" among a march of neo-Nazis and white supremacists in Charlottesville. (This month, as Trump was whipping up loathing of the "fake news" media, a young man was arrested for threatening to gun down CNN journalists.)

Even public officials feel emboldened to give voice to the basest impulses. In recent days:

A town manager in Maine was ousted for promoting racial segregation and "pro-white" views.

A pro-Trump Republican U.S. Senate candidate in Missouri posted a statement saying he expects his wife to have dinner waiting for him each night and denouncing "nail-biting manophobic hell-bent feminist she devils who shriek" and have "nasty, snake-filled heads."

A Republican state representative in Kansas alleged that marijuana was illegal because "the African Americans, they were basically users and they responded the worst off to those drugs."

A Trump appointee to AmeriCorps resigned after CNN uncovered him saying "I just don't like Muslim people" and similar statements.

Politicians have always behaved badly. What's new is the willingness of so many not just to look the other way but to call bad behavior good.

GUEST VIEW

Medicaid should be expanded even with the work rules

File this one under "Be careful what you wish for." Some states with conservative leaders might finally expand Medicaid to more of their residents — with the provision that they work as well. That's actually a good deal, because it will bring health care to more low-income people ... and expose the belief that hordes of able-bodied people are sitting around collecting government benefits.

Consider the numbers. Most Medicaid recipients make too much money — at jobs — to qualify for welfare but not enough to buy health insurance.

Thus Medicaid has evolved into sort of a bridge between those two camps. It's become the largest government health insurance program, now covering 20 percent of all Americans.

About 80 percent of Medicaid recipients are part of working families — either they or their spouses work — and about 60 percent have jobs themselves. Many other Medicaid recipients are children or legitimately unable to work.

So if states — like Texas — would finally expand Medicaid linked to work, it wouldn't have the results that many conservatives anticipate.

In fact, if this effort were paired with sincere efforts to help unemployed people get good jobs — or better ones — then everyone would win. Health care providers also would get more patients who can pay for their services. Fewer struggling hospitals would close.

All of us get sick. People without some type of insurance such as Medicaid will miss more work or school days because of illness. That makes it harder for them to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. If more people have the tools to improve their lives, more of them will.

Some states run by Republicans did expand Medicaid under the generous rules offered by the Obama administration. They suffered no ill effects. It's time for the 18 holdout states, like Texas, to join them, especially now that Obama has been replaced by a president more to their liking.

If they do so and find out that most adult Medicare recipients have jobs or welcome the chance to get them, that won't be a bad thing, either.

— The Beaumont Enterprise

Midland Reporter-Telegram
A Hearst newspaper

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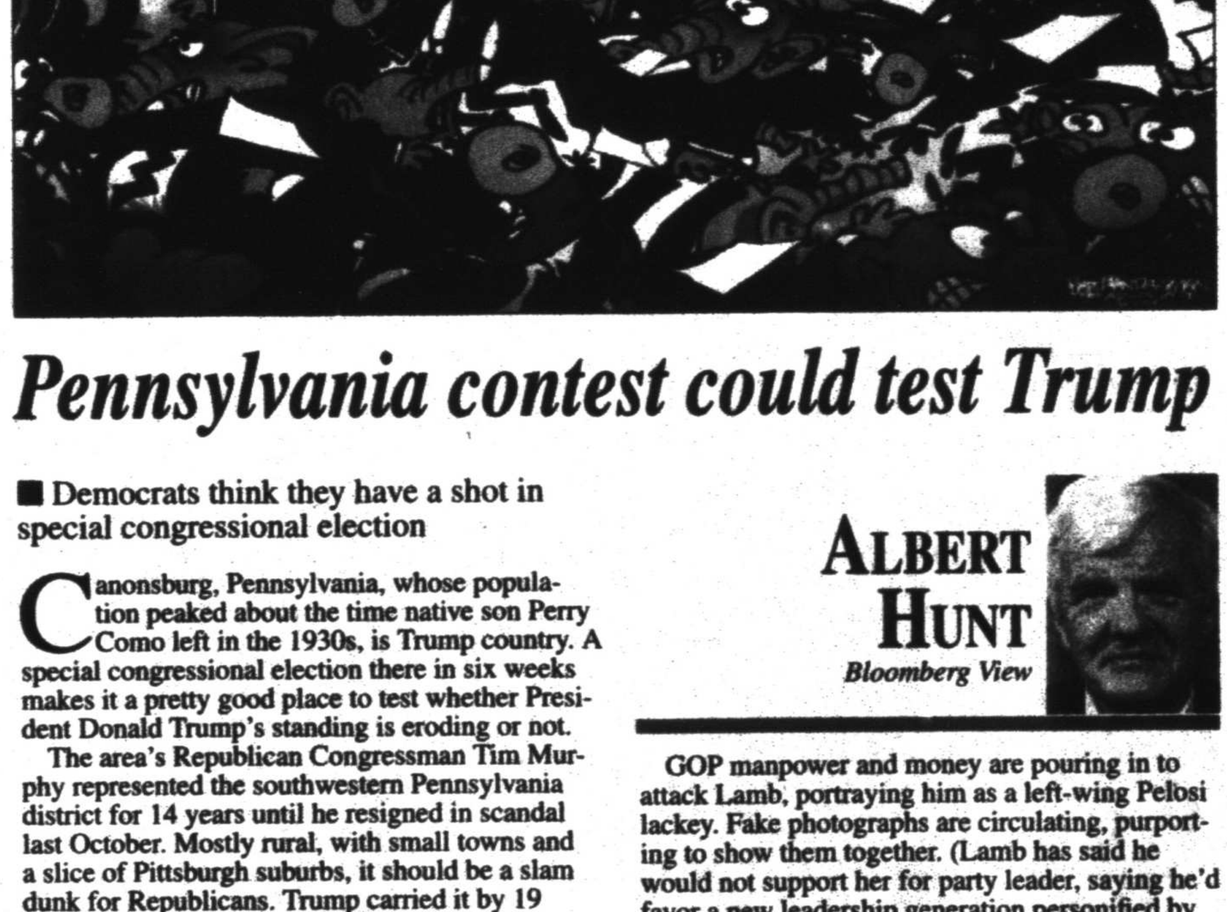

Pennsylvania contest could test Trump

■ Democrats think they have a shot in special congressional election

ALBERT HUNT
Bloomberg View

Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, whose population peaked about the time native son Perry Como left in the 1930s, is Trump country. A special congressional election there in six weeks makes it a pretty good place to test whether President Donald Trump's standing is eroding or not.

The area's Republican Congressman Tim Murphy represented the southwestern Pennsylvania district for 14 years until he resigned in scandal last October. Mostly rural, with small towns and a slice of Pittsburgh suburbs, it should be a slam dunk for Republicans. Trump carried it by 19 percentage points and Murphy ran unopposed in the last two elections. But Democrats, sensing a national blue wave, think they have a shot.

There are interesting crosscurrents.

The Democratic candidate, 33-year-old Conor Lamb, a former federal prosecutor and Marine Corps veteran with family roots in the area, is youthful and polished on the stump. The Republican, state Rep. Rick Saccone, a 59-year-old ex-Air Force officer with a doctorate in international affairs, counters with legislative experience and proven success with voters.

There's enthusiasm for the attractive young Democrat, while Republicans have an embedded political infrastructure. Both sides agree that Trump would carry the district in an election held today, and also that his support has slipped since November.

They also agree that local voters hate Washington, D.C., which can sometimes make the race sound as though it's a contest between House Speaker Paul Ryan and House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. The federal tax overhaul enacted in December will be a focus of debate in the final month before the March 13 balloting. Saccone, who says he's going to Washington to help Trump, is a big booster. Lamb, who says he's going to Washington to bring change and work across the aisle, argues that the tax cut won't help working-class Pennsylvanians and that it presages cuts in Medicare and Social Security. There are a lot of seniors in the district.

Looming over the contest is last week's Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling that the state's congressional districts are illegally gerrymandered to favor Republicans and must be redrawn. This won't affect the March contest, but could force a November rerun with different district lines.

National Republicans fear the shock waves that will strike if they lose a district that wasn't even on the radar screen four months ago, when the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that Murphy, a self-proclaimed family-values conservative, had urged his lover to have an abortion. He soon resigned.

GOP manpower and money are pouring in to attack Lamb, portraying him as a left-wing Pelosi lackey. Fake photographs are circulating, purporting to show them together. (Lamb has said he would not support her for party leader, saying he'd favor a new leadership generation personified by representatives Tim Ryan of neighboring Ohio and Joe Kennedy of Massachusetts.) Both Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have said they'd visit to stump for Saccone. They know it's a race they can ill afford to lose.

Saccone, whose campaign website says he spent a year "on a diplomatic mission" in North Korea, is one of the state Legislature's most conservative members, once backing a bill requiring public school buildings to post signs declaring "In God We Trust." The district is culturally conservative, but its voters also include more than 80,000 union households, and labor is energized for Lamb.

In Canonsburg, Trump signs and bumper stickers are still common sights. At the Perry Como museum inside a McDonald's restaurant last week, Donna McDonald, who voted Republican in 2016, is undecided now and disappointed in Trump. "He's a double talker," she said. A couple of other residents who opened their doors to talk politics fretted about the president's tweets.

Lamb focuses his fire on congressional Republicans, but doesn't lay off Trump.

"I'll work with Trump on infrastructure and drugs, but not the sort of tax bill that gives crumbs to the middle class and does nothing to protect jobs from going overseas," he said in an interview.

While Saccone cites his political experience, Lamb, relishing the contrast, says he is part of a new outsider breed. Some liberals in the suburban part of the district complain that he is too centrist, pro-gun and Trump-tolerant. But even Republican strategists acknowledge that anti-Trump passions will drive those voters to Lamb.

Helped by his family's political roots, Lamb is out-fundraising his opponent. National Democratic groups are starting to invest, but so far have delivered only a fraction of the outside Republican contributions. That may not be enough, said professor Terry Madonna of Franklin and Marshall College, a leading expert on Pennsylvania politics.

"This race may be winnable for Democrats," Madonna said, "but they don't have much time."

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Jeff Sessions weathers turbulent year as attorney general

By Sadie Gurman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jeff Sessions was in his office, looking unusually deflated. He had just received another public lashing from President Donald Trump.

Trump had browbeaten his attorney general for months after Sessions' decision to step aside from the intensifying Russia investigation. Never mind that Sessions has proved fiercely devoted to his boss, carrying out Trump's agenda while giving him credit every step of the way. Trump was unforgiving.

This attack came on an autumn day, and Sessions discussed it with a longtime friend and adviser who had stopped by to chat.

Sessions shrugged. "I do the best I can," he said. Then he got back to work.

And, somewhat surprisingly, he's still working.

Sessions will soon mark his first year on the job, having survived a barrage of insults from Trump, antipathy from some Justice Department employees and even calls from some fellow Republicans for him to resign. Last week, America's top law enforcement officer was himself questioned as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible obstruction of justice and Trump campaign ties to Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

Trump's relentless attacks have been a wearing distraction, say friends and associates of the former Alabama senator. The Associated Press interviewed more than a dozen of them, many of whom spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private interactions.

What keeps him going, friends say, is his Methodist faith, support from his wife and his awareness that, at age 71, leading the Justice Department is his best and perhaps final chance to carry out the policy changes he long has sought.

Sessions, the first senator to endorse Trump's candidacy, declined to be interviewed for this story but did agree to respond to written questions. He did not directly address his personal relationship with Trump but said his first year was marked by progress on a number of Trump's priorities: fighting crime, combating gangs and helping police.

"We are doing what the people sent us here to do," he said.

While Sessions is proud of his first year, friends see signs of stress. At an annual Justice Department Christmas party, one friend noted, the usually upbeat attorney general looked sullen and tired.

"We have talked about some of the difficult times he's had since he has been attorney general," said the Senate's second-ranking Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, a Sessions' confidant. "My comment to him was, as long as you're doing the right thing, I don't think you have anything to apologize for."

What Sessions sees as doing the right thing, though, often appears to others as doing Trump's bidding.

Critics say Sessions is too loyal, dangerously politicizing his department in an effort to appease Trump. Sessions told senior prosecutors to look into Hillary Clinton's activities after Trump demanded investigations of his 2016 Democratic rival, and he has been eager to pursue investigations into Trump grievances, such as media leaks. Lawmakers accuse Sessions of stonewalling congressional committees investigating the Trump campaign by repeatedly saying he doesn't recall key events.

Some say Sessions' public silence in the face of Trump's assaults on the department is demoralizing to employees and threatens its independence from the White House. Sessions said Friday that it's the department's responsibility to identify past mistakes and that a "culture of defensiveness is not acceptable."

"It seems he recognizes he is in such a weakened position, if he wants to stay in Trump's good graces he has to at least make a show of responding to Trump's demands, and that's extremely dangerous," said William Yeomans, who spent nearly 30 years at the department under Democratic and Republican administrations.

One example that raised eyebrows: Sessions' plan to confront the opioid crisis hews so closely to Trump's that White House aide Kellyanne Conway was on hand in the Justice Department's seventh-floor conference room when he announced it.

Sessions declined to address specific actions by his department but said it carries out "the law without regard to the political consequences or to poll numbers or who benefits and who doesn't," and Trump supports that.

Even if Sessions is complying with Trump's demands and pursuing his agenda, the attorney general has yet to find himself back in favor with the president. Before Sessions' decision to withdraw from the Russia investigation, Trump used to call Sessions periodically and seek his counsel. Now the two men rarely speak, and Sessions at times has resorted to asking West Wing aides to pass messages to Trump.

The rupture stems from Sessions' move on March 2 to step aside from that investigation after acknowledging he had had two previously undisclosed encounters with the Russian ambassador in Washington during Trump's campaign. Sessions said it would be improper for him to oversee an investigation into a campaign in which he played a prominent role.

Trump was furious. Sessions had disregarded a plea from Trump's White House lawyer, Don McGahn, who, at Trump's request, had urged the attorney general to retain oversight of the investigation. But by then, Sessions had already consulted with ethics officials and had made up his mind. Sessions' action left Trump without a close political appointee keeping a hand in the investigation of his campaign.

Sessions offered to resign. Trump declined to accept it. Sacking Sessions would have been politically perilous for the president.

But the barrage of tweets and public and private comments from Trump haven't ended. He disparaged Sessions in comparisons with Eric Holder, whom Trump says he respects for protecting President Barack Obama while serving as attorney general.

Sessions has endured with a courtly stoicism.



Gerald Herbert/Associated Press

Royal court troubadour Andrew Perret heralds the king and queen at the Little Rascals Mardi Gras Ball on Thursday in Kenner, La. The weeks-long celebration leading up to Fat Tuesday is often perceived as an adults-only holiday in the French Quarter's famed Bourbon Street festivities. But elsewhere, children and families are as much a part of the revelry as anyone.

Not just a drunken revelry: Mardi Gras for kids as well

By Stacey Plaisance
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A red wagon decorated as a shrimp boat with nets extending out from either side carried a waving 2-year-old dressed as a shellfish being pulled by his parents who wore white rubber shrimping boots.

The family was among more than 100 revelers marching through the streets of New Orleans on Jan. 20 in the Krewe of Confetti Kids parade — one of the many kid-centered events held during the Carnival season leading up to Fat Tuesday on Feb. 13. Other children dressed as princesses, mermaids, and firefighters while a brass band serenaded the crowd.

"I love Mardi Gras," said 7-year-old Virginia Strong, who wore a 1950's style polka dot dress with a string of pearl beads around her neck. "It's fun to dress up and have fun with your friends."

The weeks-long celebration leading up to Fat Tuesday is often perceived as an adults-only holiday with drunken roguishness and women flashing their breasts for beads. And to be fair, that's certainly a factor in the French Quarter's famed Bourbon Street festivities. But elsewhere, children and families are as much a part of the revelry as anyone — many say they're the heart and soul of the holiday. Children can be seen lining the parade routes, families spend weeks making costumes together and there's even kid-centered parades.

"This is the best quality family time we get all year, because we spend more weekends together costuming and going to parades together, and it's just wonderful," said Ariana Maria Ybarra, a married mother with two young girls.

Ybarra said her family has been spending recent weeks preparing for Chewbacchus, the Star Wars-themed walking parade in the city's Marigny neighborhood slated for Feb. 3: "We're going as a family of Martians."

The largest of the kid parades is Little Rascals, which has floats, marching bands, dancing groups, Mardi Gras Indians in full feathered headdresses, Cajun Indians on horseback, and kids tossing cups, beads, toys, pralines, moon pies and other snacks.

"There's something for everyone, and the great thing about it is that the kids are just kids," said Maureen Spittler, who co-founded the parade in 1983 with her husband, Jack. Launched 35 years ago with about 50 kids and three floats, the parade now has nearly 20 floats and nearly 300 kids. There's even a Little Rascals ball — the only formal ball children are allowed to attend. The more than 200 kids riding in Sunday's parade danced the night away Thursday at a glitzy ball held in their honor.

On Sunday, even a drizzly rain didn't stop thousands of people from lining the parade route in Metairie to see the Little Rascals parade.

"This parade is great because it's all kids," said Angie Eymard, who arrived at the route hours ahead of the parade with cousins and friends donning Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold. "It's all kids throwing stuff, and it's nice to see their smiling faces. And I don't have to worry about people getting too rowdy. It's very family-oriented."

Families and kids are a fixture at all the parades rolling along the oak tree-lined St. Charles Ave. Families camp out early, often setting up specially-designed ladders with a seat on top for kids. The seat gives kids a special vantage point to catch beads or other items given out by people on the floats. The ladders are usually artfully painted and equipped with wheels on them to make it easier for the families to roll home at the end of the day. On the weekends, families usually spend the day camped out on the parade route, often with a picnic, watching parade after parade go by.

The New Orleans suburb of Metairie hosts an annual "Family Gras" celebration with live music. This year's celebration is Feb. 2-3.

TRUMPBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON

In State of Union, Trump to make case that America is back

Seeking to move past the shadow of the Russia investigation, President Donald Trump intends to use his first State of the Union address to cite economic progress under his watch, while pushing for bipartisanship with Democrats on issues such as rebuilding roads and bridges.

The White House said Sunday that the president would point to a robust economy and low unemployment during his first year and the benefits of a tax overhaul during Tuesday's address to Congress and the nation. Aides have said Trump, who stayed at the White House over the weekend as he prepared, is expected to set aside his more combative tone for one of compromise and bipartisanship.

"The president is going to talk about how America's back," said White House legislative director Marc Short. "The president is also going to make an appeal to Democrats ... to say we need to rebuild our country. And to make an appeal that to do infrastructure, we need to do it in a bipartisan way."

Short said Trump would urge Democrats to support additional military spending in light of "dramatic threats on the global scene."

White House officials have said the theme of the annual address will be "building a safe, strong and proud America" and that Trump was looking to showcase the accomplishments of his first year while setting the tone for the second.

As Trump looks ahead, special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible obstruction of justice and Trump campaign ties to Russian meddling in the 2016 election grinds on.

It often has distracted from the president's message. For example, Trump's address to financial and global leaders in Davos, Switzerland, last week followed reports that he ordered a top White House lawyer to fire Mueller last June but backed off when the lawyer threatened to resign. Trump called the report "fake news."

On the policy front, immigration is an immediate flashpoint for Trump and Congress. In the prime-time speech Tuesday, the president plans to promote his proposal for $25 billion for a wall along the Mexican border and for a path to citizenship for nearly 2 million young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Trump's plan includes billions for border security and significant changes to legal immigration long sought by hard-liners within the Republican Party. But some conservatives have warned that the deal would amount to "amnesty" for the young immigrants known as Dreamers, and many Democrats and immigration activists have outright rejected it.

WASHINGTON

GOP senators: Trump needs to show restraint in Russia probe

Two Republican senators said Sunday that President Donald Trump would be wise to keep a public silence on an independent investigation into his 2016 campaign's contacts with Russia in the wake of news reports that he sought to fire the special counsel.

The senators, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Susan Collins of Maine, also urged special counsel Robert Mueller to review whether Trump tried to fire him last June, an accusation the president has labeled "fake news."

"Mueller is the best person to look at it," said Graham, describing the allegation as grave if proved true. "I'm sure that there will be an investigation around whether or not President Trump did try to fire Mr. Mueller."

Graham, co-sponsor of legislation that would protect Mueller from being fired without a legal basis, said he would be "glad to pass it tomorrow." But he insisted that Mueller's job appeared to be in no immediate danger, pointing to the political costs if Trump did remove him.

"It's pretty clear to me that everybody in the White House knows it would be the end of President Trump's presidency if he fired Mr. Mueller," he said.

Collins said it would certainly "not hurt" for Congress to approve added protections for Mueller given the recent media reports. But she didn't offer a timeline.

"I think the president would be best served by never discussing the investigation, ever, whether in tweets, except in private conversations with his attorney," she said.

The New York Times and other outlets reported that Trump backed off his attempt to fire Mueller last June only after White House lawyer Don McGahn refused to relay his directive to the Justice Department and threatened to quit if Trump pressed the issue.

According to the reports, Trump argued that Mueller could not be fair because of a dispute over golf club fees that he said Mueller owed at a Trump golf club in Sterling, Virginia. The president also believed Mueller had a conflict of interest because he worked for the same law firm that was representing Trump's son-in-law and adviser, Jared Kushner.

On Sunday, lawmakers praised Mueller's impartiality and expressed confidence that he would be able to conduct a full, wide-ranging investigation.

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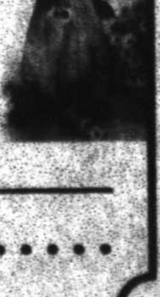

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1 Corinthians 13:13
So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

GRAMMY GLITZ & GLAMOUR

Bruno Mars sweeps the Grammys, winning top album and song


Bruno Mars & Cardi B

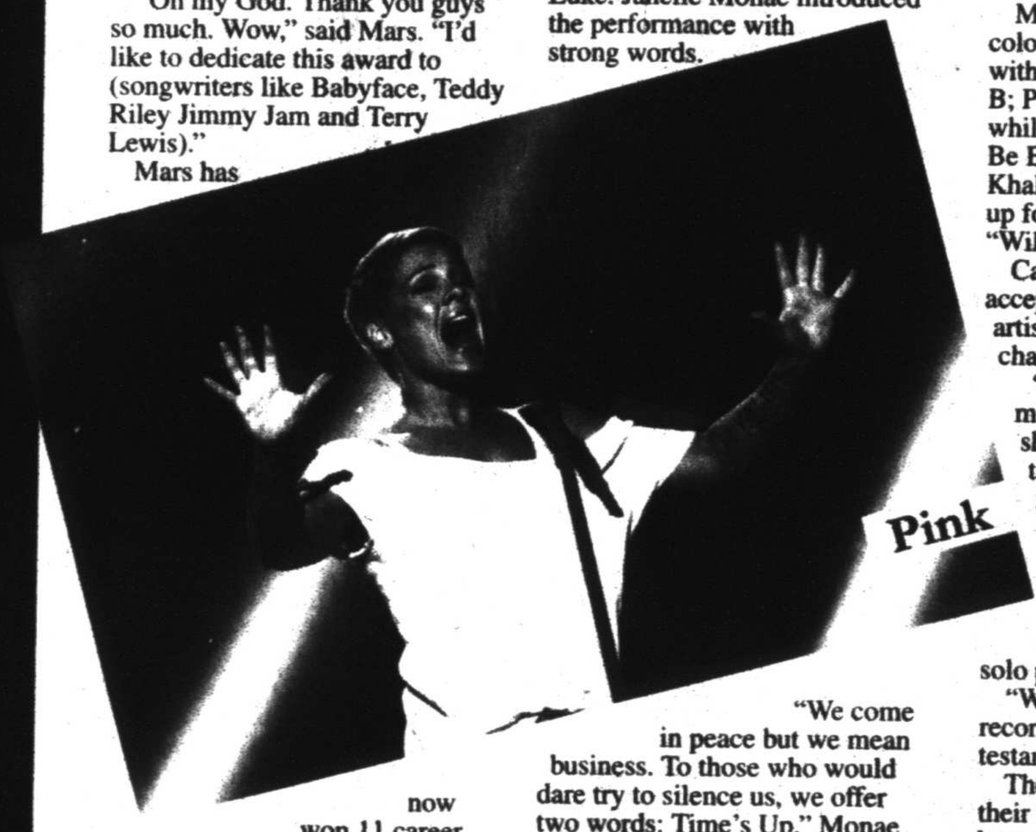
By Mesfin Fekadu
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bruno Mars went six for six at the Grammys, winning all of the awards he was nominated for with his energetic and upbeat 90s-inspired R&B album.

Mars won album of the year for "24K Magic," record of the year for the title track, and song of the year for the No. 1 hit, "That's What I Like," on Sunday at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

"Oh my God. Thank you guys so much. Wow," said Mars. "I'd like to dedicate this award to (songwriters like Babyface, Teddy Riley Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis)."

Mars has now won 11 career Grammys.


Pink

Jay-Z, the leading nominee with eight, walked away empty handed. He lost in the rap categories to Kendrick Lamar, who won five awards, including best rap album for "DAMN." and best rap song for "HUMBLE." He has a career total of 12 Grammys.

"This is special man. I got a lot of guys in this building that I still idolize today," said Lamar, naming Jay-Z, Nas and Diddy as inspirations.

At the end, Lamar closed with: "Jay for president."

Lamar kicked off the Grammys with a powerful and poignant performance featuring video screens displaying a waving American flag behind him, as background dancers dressed as army soldiers marched and moved behind. He was joined Sunday by U2's Bono and The Edge, and also Dave Chappelle — who told jokes in between Lamar's performance.

At one point, Lamar's background dancers, dressed in red, were shot down as he rapped lyrics, later coming back to life as fire burst to end the six-minute performance.

But the night's top performer was Kesha, who gave a passionate performance with the help of powerful women behind her, including the Resistance Revival Chorus.

She was joined by Cyndi Lauper, Camila Cabello, Julia Michaels, Andra Day and Bebe Rexha for her Grammy-nominated song, "Praying." Dressed in white, they won over the audience and hugged at the song's end as some audience members cried, including Hailee Steinfeld.

Kesha, who earned her first pair of Grammy nominations this year, has been in a legal war with former producer and mentor Dr. Luke. Janelle Monae introduced the performance with strong words.

"We come in peace but we mean business. To those who would dare try to silence us, we offer two words: Time's Up," Monae said. "It's not just going on in Hollywood. It's not just going on in Washington. It's here in our industry, too."

Before the performance, Maren Morris, Eric Church and Brothers Osborne performed an emotional rendition of Eric Clapton's "Tears In Heaven" — written after his son died — in honor of the 58 people who died at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas last year. The names of the victims were displayed behind them as they performed.

The performances were two of the show's serious moments. Dozens of artists and music industry players also sported white roses in support of the Time's Up and #MeToo movements against sexual abuse and harassment.

"Black is beautiful, hate is ugly," rapper Logic said onstage after performing suicide prevention attention "1-800-273-8255." The performance, also with Alessia Cara and Khalid, included a group of suicide attempt and loss survivors selected by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Sting's performance was somewhat political as he sang his 1987 song, "Englishman in New York," which includes the lyrics, "Oh, I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien, I'm an Englishman in New York."

Mars gave an energetic and colorful performance of "Finesse" with breakthrough rapper Cardi B; Pink was a vocal powerhouse while she sang "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken"; and Rihanna, DJ Khaled and Bryson Tiller teamed up for a vibrant performance of "Wild Thoughts."

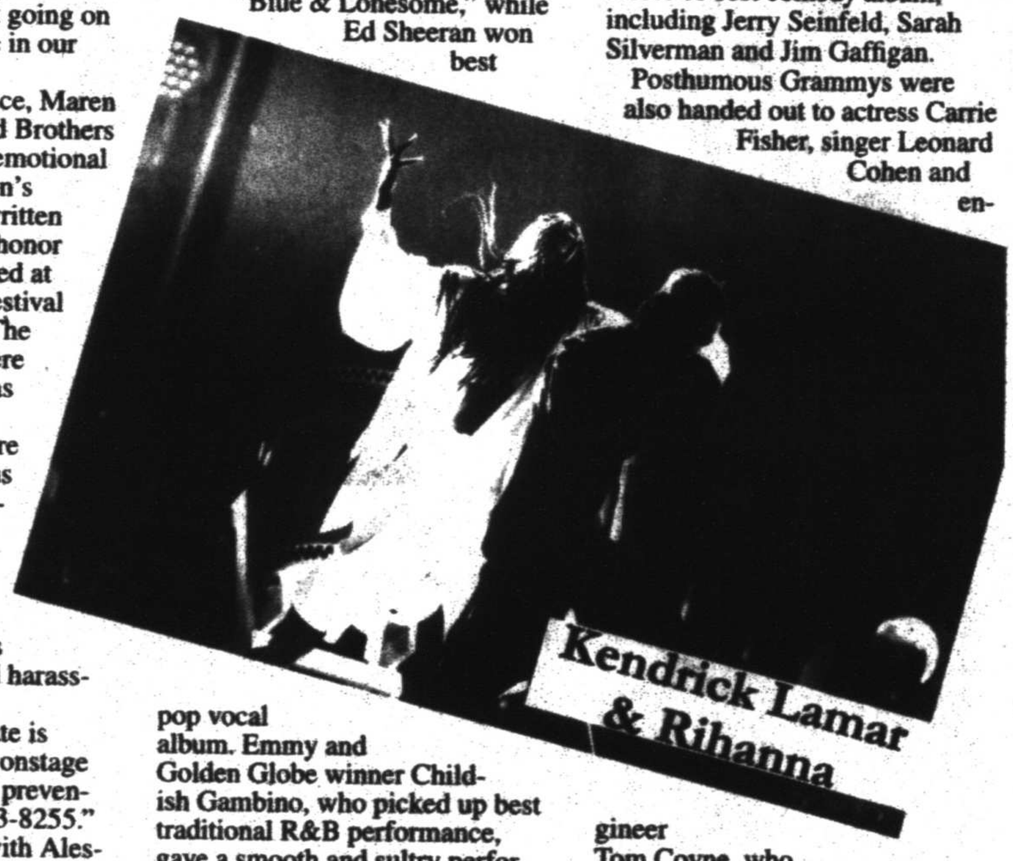
Cara, who was shaking as she accepted the award for best new artist, beat out SZA, Julia Michaels, Khalid and Lil Uzi Vert.

"Thank you to my parents and my brother for believing in me," she said, also urging the crowd to "support real music and real artists because everyone deserves the same shot."

Chris Stapleton won three awards, including best country album, best country song and best country solo performance.

"We always try to make great records ... and I guess this is a testament to that," Stapleton said.

The Rolling Stones picked up their third career Grammy — for best traditional blues album for "Blue & Lonesome," while Ed Sheeran won best pop vocal album. Emmy and Golden Globe winner Childish Gambino, who picked up best traditional R&B performance, gave a smooth and sultry performance of "Terrified" in all-white featuring screeching high notes. Gambino was joined by young singer-actor, JD McCrary, who matched his vocals and sings on the original track.


Kendrick Lamar & Rihanna

Little Big Town, who sang their Taylor Swift-penned No. 1 hit "Better Man," also won best country duo/group performance with the song. Lady Gaga won over the audience with a rousing performance of the songs "Joanne" and "Million Reasons," while Sam Smith gave a powerful performance of the song "Pray

The Weeknd, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Reba McEntire, LCD Soundsystem, Portugal the Man and Shakira also won early awards. Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, both Oscar and Tony winners, won best musical theater album for "Dear Evan Hansen," shared with Tony winner Ben Platt.

Chappelle won best comedy album during the televised show.

"I am honored to win an award, finally, and I wanted to thank everyone at Netflix, at 'Saturday Night Live,' at 'The Chappelle Show,'" he said.

Puppies were passed to the losers of best comedy album, including Jerry Seinfeld, Sarah Silverman and Jim Gaffigan.

Posthumous Grammys were also handed out to actress Carrie Fisher, singer Leonard Cohen and engineer Tom Coyne, who worked on Mars' "24K Magic" album. Double winners included Jason Isbell, Justin Hurwitz and CeCe Winans.

Partial list of winners in top categories at the Grammys

Partial list of winners in the top categories at the Grammy Awards, announced Sunday by The Recording Academy:

■ Album of the year: "24K Magic," Bruno Mars.

■ Record of the year: "24K Magic," Bruno Mars.

■ Song of the year (songwriter's award): "That's What I Like."

■ Best new artist: Alessia Cara.

■ Best pop solo performance: "Shape of You," Ed Sheeran.

■ Best pop duo/group performance: "Feel It Still," Portugal. The Man.

■ Best traditional pop vocal album: "Tony Bennett Celebrates 90," various artists.

■ Best pop vocal album: "Divide," Ed Sheeran.

■ Best rock album: "A Deeper Understanding," The War on Drugs.

■ Best alternative music album: "Sleep Well Beast," The National.

■ Best rap album: "DAMN.," Kendrick Lamar.

■ Best rap song: "HUMBLE.," Kendrick Lamar.

■ Best rap performance: Kendrick Lamar.

■ Best urban contemporary album: "Starboy," The Weeknd.

■ Best R&B album: "24K Magic," Bruno Mars.

■ Best R&B performance: Bruno Mars.

■ Best R&B song: "That's What I Like," Bruno Mars.

■ Best dance/electronic album: "3-D The Catalogue."

■ Best country album: "From A Room: Volume 1," Chris Stapleton.

■ Best jazz vocal album: "Dreams And Daggers," Cecile McLorin Salvant.

■ Best jazz instrumental album: "Rebirth," Billy Childs.

■ Best compilation soundtrack for visual media: "La La Land."

■ Best music video: "HUMBLE.," Kendrick Lamar.

Lots of black but also pops of glitz in Grammys fashion

By Leanne Italie
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stars, including Lady Gaga and Kelly Clarkson, turned out on the Grammys red carpet Sunday displaying white roses in solidarity with the Time's Up and #MeToo movements against sexual misconduct on music's biggest night for what is usually the wildest display of fashion during awards season.

Gaga was in a black lace top and leggings with a full skirt and train, white rose in place and her hair swept into a fishtail braid with black pins. Her signature towering platform shoes — black boots this time around — were on her feet. Rita Ora also wowed in black, a gown with a silver embellished lining open on one side to the hip. She, too, had a white rose pinned on.

There was lots of black, perhaps spillover from the anti-sexual misconduct message of the recent Golden Globes, but there was also plenty of color.

Elton John didn't disappoint on that score in a geometric-pattern, blue, gold and red sparkler of a jacket from Gucci, encrusted sunglasses to match. Country's trio Midland — Mark Wystrach, Cameron Duddy and Jess Carson — went big in the cowboy hat department, including a topper with a rainbow feather to match a similarly adorned jacket for one.

Multiple-nominee Sza was accompanied by her grandmother and donned embellished white, her hair loose and natural. Cardi B made a big statement in white with a short tiered dress and train.

"It was an interesting choice for her," Cosmopolitan's senior fashion editor said of Cardi. "I loved it. It was very playful and fun."

Sam Smith was in a green suit — yes he wore the rose — and a red scoop-neck shirt underneath, while Ne-Yo wore a yellow jacket. In a red tuxedo look, including red bow tie, was DJ Khaled and his adorable, mini-me 1-year-old son, who got a matching red suit.

Khaled called Asahd: "My partner in crime, my best friend, my biggest blessing. ... When he smiles it's like God smiling on me."

Khaled's red was a win for Reid as well: "I thought it was very whimsical and he did it well."

Maren Morris was in a chain-link silver sparkler that brought the wow in a barely there design. Also in silver: A pregnant Chrissie Teigen as she posed with husband John Legend.

"My favorite is definitely Chrissie Teigen in her all-silver sequin look. I think she's taking maternity style to the next level."

Lana Del Rey, meanwhile, joined Sir Elton in Gucci, an angelic gown in cream with a high slit and crystal star theme.

Clinton appearance among Grammys political moments

Associated Press

NEW YORK — One-time Grammy winner Hillary Clinton made it back to the awards show Sunday night in a role she no doubt relished.

She was a surprise guest in a skit by host James Corden, supposedly auditioning for the spoken word recording of Michael Wolff's best-seller on President Donald Trump's administration, "Fire and Fury."

She followed John Legend, Cher, Snoop Dogg, Cardi B and DJ Khaled, all of whom Corden found wanting. The final "auditioner" lowered the book from in front of her face to reveal it was Clinton. Corden said she got the job and was a sure winner.

"You think so?" Trump's 2016 election opponent said. "The Grammy's in the bag?"

Clinton is already a Grammy winner from 1997, for reading her book, "It Takes a Village."

Not everyone was a fan of the moment. United Nations Ambassador Nikki Halley tweeted that the moment ruined the Grammy-watching experience for her.

"I have always loved the Grammys but to have artists read the Fire and Fury book killed it," she tweeted. "Don't ruin great music with trash. Some of us love music without the politics thrown in it."

It wasn't the only political moment at the awards show. Like the pre-recorded skit with Clinton, all were meticulously planned.

Three country artists who were on the bill at the country music festival that was the site of a mass shooting in Las Vegas in October joined to sing a somber version of Eric Clapton's "Tears in Heaven." Eric Church, Maren Morris and the Brothers Osborne performed before a backdrop with the names of shooting victims.

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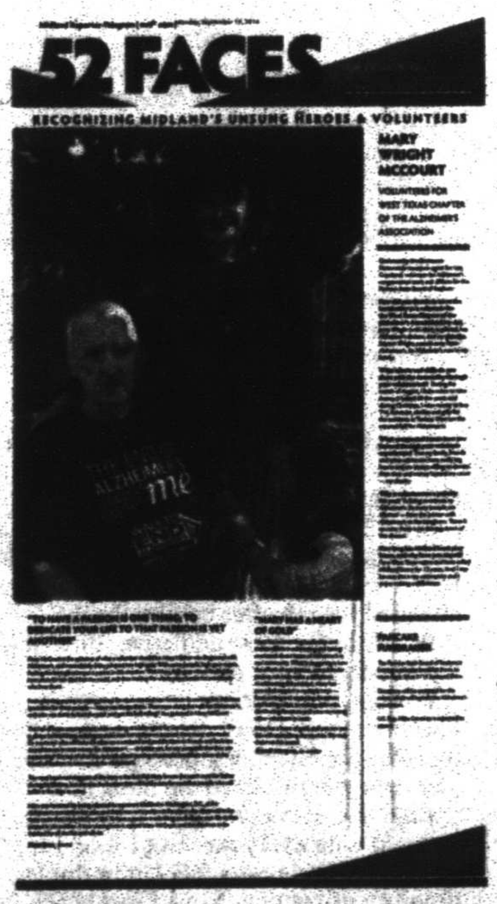







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Apple is late to enter smart-speaker market

By Hayley Tsukayama
Washington Post

Apple announced a Feb 9. release date for its smart speaker called the HomePod — allowing the company that first popularized virtual assistants through its smartphones to finally enter the market for virtual assistants in the home.

The looming question for the company, though, is whether it is too late.

Apple is releasing its smart speaker nearly three years after the Amazon Echo and after the Google Home, which launched in 2016. Apple also originally scheduled the HomePod to hit the market in December before the critical holiday shopping season. But the device was delayed until early this year, past the time for avid shopping and gift giving.

For those wondering whether they should buy Apple's new thing, here's a look at how the HomePod stacks up.

By setting the price of the HomePod at $350, Apple appears to be hoping consumers will see it as a premium device.

For that reason, the HomePod is probably more comparable to the $400 Google Home Max, which is more expensive than versions that go for $130. The HomePod also is far more expensive than Amazon's highest-end Echo speaker, the $150 Echo Plus, which is more focused on smart-home setup than audio. Amazon's main Echo device costs $100. (Amazon chief executive Jeff Bezos is the owner of The Washington Post.)

In essence, Apple hopes consumers will believe the HomePod is of much higher-quality than others on the market.

Apple has been able to sell devices at a premium price tag in the past. But it will be testing the value of its brand by asking consumers to spend hundreds more to buy its smart speaker.

Speaker: Apple has been playing up its audio quality as the biggest way its HomePod stands out from the pack. The company wants to remind you that this is a speaker and not just a box where Siri lives. Apple claims the device is also designed to make a variety of music sound good. That's not always something its competitors can tout, though Google has touted the audio quality of the Home Max.

HomePod, like the Home Max, uses sound waves to map the room and adjusts its playback accordingly. For example, placing it on a table near the wall should make it play music differently than if you put it in the middle of the room.

The music lovers who will benefit most from HomePod of course will be Apple Music subscribers. Per Apple's release, HomePod will be able to carry out lots of commands specifically from Apple

Please see SPEAKER/4B

'UPSCALE CONVENIENCE STORE'



Elaine Thompson/Associated Press

A shopper departs an Amazon Go store Jan. 22 in Seattle. More than a year after it introduced the concept, Amazon opened its artificial intelligence-powered Amazon Go store in downtown Seattle on Monday. The store on the bottom floor of the company's Seattle headquarters allows shoppers to scan their smartphone with the Amazon Go app at a turnstile, pick out the items they want and leave.

Amazon Go: 'This could be a big thing'

REBEKAH DENN
Special to The Washington Post

SEATTLE — I asked if the grocery shopper of the future — my 15-year-old son, Benjamin — might be interested in checking out Amazon Go. I didn't have to ask twice. The market in the burgeoning Amazon campus near downtown Seattle was the talk of the town.

Word had already spread of the literal grab-and-go store — there are no registers or, indeed, any cash accepted — at Benjamin's high school, where kids stretch the lunch-period limits to snag a salad at the nearby Whole Foods Market, also owned by Amazon. (Amazon's chief executive, Jeffrey P. Bezos, also owns The Washington Post.)

"How about today?" he asked with an enthusiasm usually reserved for opening-night movie tickets.

A Seattle native barely old enough to recall dial-up modems, Benjamin felt none of my Orwellian angst about a cashier-free business where customers are automatically charged for purchases when they exit the store.

"It's not as creepy as Alexa," he said.

We made our way to the store's sleek entrance, where we saw more humans at work than I expected: restocking crews, chipper brand ambassadors, salad-tossers in the food prep area visible from street-level windows.

Entering the 1,800-square-foot store required scanning the Amazon Go app I had downloaded earlier, sliding my iPhone over a plastic-gated turnstile something like a subway entrance. The app ensures anything you take will be charged to your Amazon account. Effectively, it also restricts customers whose incomes don't support smartphones or credit cards.

I beeped Benjamin through the gates, linking his purchases to my account, then scanned once more to follow.

Inside, the market felt surprisingly spare, an upscale but monochromatic convenience store with a camera-jammed ceiling. There was no produce department, beyond some pre-cut packaged fruit. No meat counter. It was like the inverse of a Costco warehouse, every item designed for a household of one or two — from single-serving boxed Duncan Hines mug cake mix to shelves of Amazon-branded meal kits. The selection was squarely aimed at urban workers in the South Lake Union neighborhood, once jokingly and now seriously referred to as Amazonia, who are notorious for prizing speed and ease when they emerge for snacks and meals.

A wall of candy featured an "Amazon Go" bar from Theo Chocolate, Seattle's fair-trade chocolate factory. Boxed pastries came from Seattle's Macrina Bakery and the Essential Baking Co., mainstays at indie cafes. If 69-cent Diet Cokes didn't appeal, there was pressed-rhubarb soda from Great Britain and $3.99 Stumptown cold brew from Portland. ("That's the most expensive coffee ever," sputtered Benjamin, who tries to be frugal with his hard-earned babysitting cash. I had to break the news that it was not.) Packaged salads and prepared foods — from butter chicken to tofu banh mi — lined the refrigerated shelves. Several items were sold out, including birthday-cake-flavor Halo Top ice cream.

Customers may have come for the novelty, but they left with full bags. So did we: Benjamin chose pasta salad ($4.99) and iced tea ($1.39). I added a chocolate chip Macrina cookie ($2.29), a 17-ounce box of Honey Nut Cheerios ($2.99) and a two-serving salmon donburi meal kit ($19.99.) The kit made a good dinner, as I'd expect — Amazon long ago hired Jonathan Hunt, formerly one of the city's top caterers. We walked out without incident. Five minutes later, my phone chirped with an itemized receipt, complete with product photos and a time stamp noting our 23-minute and 54-second visit.

"I think this could be a big thing," Benjamin said.

That's been the case with everything else involving Amazon and Seattle, where the homegrown giant has fueled explosive growth, for better or worse. Look one way outside Amazon Go to see the spectacular new Amazon Spheres, private dome-shaped office buildings landscaped with tropical gardens. Look the other way toward the Mary's Place shelter for homeless families that Amazon sponsors in another building, one of the few bright spots in a raging homelessness crisis. Seattle's median home price is now $725,000, unattainable even if the nonexistent cashiers at Amazon Go had earned the city's $15 minimum wage.

Benjamin said if he worked in the gorgeous glass spheres — one of the few ways even a smart, privileged kid could afford to stay in Seattle as an adult — he could imagine shopping at Amazon Go.

Would he miss human checkers?

He'd miss humans at restaurants if tablets replaced servers, he said. He wants human bookstore clerks who know and love books. But grocery-store pleasantries seemed shallow and transactional, and not essential.

To my generational surprise, I agreed. Maybe it's from all the non-Amazon markets that already replaced many humans with self-check kiosks where I

Please see DENN/4B

CASSANDRA JARAMILLO
Dallas Morning News

Take time away from phone to balance life

There's a bit of self-loathing that comes after you waste more than an hour scrolling through social feeds and comparing your life to the people online.

It's painful, and it's time that you'll never get back. While social media and our connectedness to family and friends have positive attributes, many things about social media can be negative.

That's exactly why Texas Christian University assistant professor Ashley English challenges herself to do a yearly cleanse from social media around the holidays until after New Year's.

English is a busy working woman and mother of three. At 33, she finds a way to balance it all. Taking time away from her phone helped the most.

Indeed, I have been feeling that I needed more boundaries between my online life and real-in-the-moment life. I've been active on social media since I was a teenager on MySpace. More recently, I was active on multiple platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram, occasionally Pinterest. Half of my life is documented on social networks.

When I think about babies today, I wonder if their parents even have baby photo books or if social media is the new baby book. The digital age has changed us. Now, how do we make ourselves change our bad, habit-forming behaviors online?

Despite being overly dependent on my phone as a reporter, I wanted to try to remove myself from social networks. Starting with baby steps, I took a long holiday weekend away from social media to test out English's practices, which are pretty simple.

First, she lets everyone know to not expect her to answer social media messages or comments.

Then she deletes social media apps from her phone and mutes messaging apps. After the cleanse, her mantra is that 5 to 8 p.m. is "no phones" time. It's all about family and kids.

We all have our own way to navigate this balance. When I did my cleanse, here's what I found worked best and changed for me after coming back:

■ Delete the most addictive, time-wasting app from your phone.

For me, this absolutely was my Facebook app. Don't get me wrong, I'm thankful for Facebook because it is the platform where I have the most family and friends in one spot. It helps me keep up with everyone. But I found it is absolutely useless to check it multiple times on my phone. Now, I just check it through a desktop computer.

■ You'll find being bored is great.

Please see JARAMILLO/4B

Review: Trap Adventure 2 is an insanely difficult video game to play

By Derek Hawkins
Washington Post

When developer Hiroyoshi Oshiba released the video game "Trap Adventure 2," he included a strongly-worded warning for potential players: try it at your own peril.

"Caution!! This may be the most hardest, irritating, frustrating game EVER," his message read. "If you tend to exasperate often, I recommend you not play this game. It will literally drive you insane. I PROMISE. As written above, this game is VERY STRESSFUL."

That may have been an understatement.

"Trap Adventure 2" is so over-the-top hard to play that it could easily be renamed "Trap Torture 2" if it weren't so darkly funny.

The game, available on iOS devices, is essentially a nightmare version of the original "Super Mario Bros." As you run and jump your way through a castle-like maze, a never-ending series of spikes, flames and other booby traps appear out of nowhere to take your life, forcing you to start over. For most people, it's pretty much impossible to beat.

Oshiba, a developer from Japan, quietly released the game in 2016 through Apple's App Store. But it blew up on social media this week after a user shared a short video that captured just how comically difficult it is.

"Such a masterpiece," tweeted the user, whose video had racked up nearly 9 million views as of Thursday morning.

The challenge is clear from the game's very first frames. When it opens, you find your character standing over a pit of deadly spikes. Your goal is to make it to the other side of the pit by leaping across three ascending blocks. You hop across the first two with no problem, but when you try to jump to the third, spikes shoot out of it, killing you.

Here's where things get really sadistic: If you try to leap over the third block entirely, it comes crashing down on top of you. If you try to retreat to where you started, the ceiling collapses over you. And if by some stroke of luck you do make it to the other side of the spiky pit,

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	C	S	E	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	The Bachelor (N)				The Good Doctor "Oliver"		News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Kevin Can (N)	Man With a Plan (N)	Donuts (N)	9JKL (N)	Scorpion "Wave Goodbye" (N)		CBS 7 News (N)	(:35) The Late Show		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Gomer Pyle	Mama's Family	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Perry Mason		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lucifer "Til Death Do Us Part" (N)		Resident "Comrades in Arms" (N)		Fox 24 News (N)	TMZ	Mom	Modern "Chirp"	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Faith for Families	The Wings of Truth	Update News	Mani Erfan	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Update News	Housecall	Aleph Course	Sounds of Shofar
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsW-est 9 (N)	NewsWest 9 Now	The Wall "Steve and Nick" (N)		Better Late "Morocco: Part 1" (N)		The Brave "Close to Home: Part 2" (SF) (N)		NewsW-est 9 (N)	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Late Night (N)
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour (N)		Antiques Roadshow (N)		Antique "Knoxville (Hour Three)"		Independent Lens "I Am Another You" (N)		Aman-pour (N)	News (N)		Stories
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe		El Rico y Lazaro		Papa a Toda Madre		Caer en Tentacion		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto	Deportivo
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	Law & Order: S.V.U.		Law & Order: S.V.U.		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Game	Game
FLIX	340	575		165		(5:00) The Bound...		★★★ Hardball ('01, Dra) Keanu Reeves.				★★ The Legend of Bagger Vance			(:15) Stander		
HBO	300	550	14	14		Mosaic	News (N)	May It Last: A Portrait of ...			(:45) King Arthur: Legend of the Sword				Divorce	Movie	
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(5:00) Back to the ...		Crashing	Crashing	HighMain	John Wick: Chapter 2 Keanu Reeves.			(:35) Boxing HBO After Dark			
HBOS	304	552	16	102		(5:50) ★★★ La La Land Emma Stone.				★★★ The Time Traveler's Wife					★★★ Shongril Stone Martin.	Movie	
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(5:35) Spring Bre...		Mike & Dave Need Wedd...			(:40) ★★★ Forgo			(:20) ★★★ Super Troopers			
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:05) ★★★ Scott Pilgrim vs. the World				★★★ Independence Day: Resurgence				(:05) ★★★ Die Hard ('88, Act) Bruce Willis.			
PLEX			96			(5:10) Untamed H...		★★★ Chocolat Juliette Binoche.			(:05) ★★★ The Evening Star			(:15) ★★ Star Kid			
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	(5:25) Bad Santa		Shameless		The Chi		Shameless		The Chi		★ The Autopsy of ...	
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(5:15) The Sandman		★ Arsenal ('17, Act) Nicolas Cage.			(:20) ★★ Call John Cusack.			(:15) ★★★ The Hateful Eight			
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	Waco: Madman or Messiah "Night 1"				Waco Madman "Night 2" The Mount Carmel raid turns into a 51-day stand-off. (N)			(:05) America on Fire (N)	(:05) Waco: Madman or Messiah "Night 2"			
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(5:00) The Longes...		★★ Armageddon ('98, Adventure) Liv Tyler, Ben Affleck, Bruce Willis.							★★ Black Hawk Down		
BET	58	-		40		(5:00) ★★ ATL ('16, Com) Evan Ross, L.L.				Kevin Hart: Grown...		★ Baggage Claim (2013, Comedy) Taye Diggs, Paula Patton.					
BRAVO	65	76		41		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump R. (N)		Summer House (N)		Watch (N)	Vanderpump Rules		SumHouse
CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Profit "Faded Royalty"		The Profit		The Profit "Rayjus"	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws: Full		Street Outlaws (N)		(:05) Memphis		(:05) Street Outlaws		(:05) Memphis	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Underc.	Andi M.	StuckMid.	Bizaard.	Bunk'd	Jessie	Underc.	StuckMid.	Underc.	GoodLuck
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball Notre Dame at Duke (L)				NCAA Basketball Kansas at Kansas State (L)				SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NFL Football		SportsCenter Special		"Super Bowl Opening Night" (L)				Basketb.	NFL Live		
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Cake Wars		Kids Baking		Kids Baking (N)		Cakes (N)	Cakes	Cake Wars		Kids Baking	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:30) ★★ Freaky Friday				★★★ Never Been Kissed ('99, Rom) Drew Barrymore.				The 700 Club		Grown	Grown
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	UIL Champ. "Football: 4A, 5A and 6A"		Mavs Pre (L)		NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Dallas Mavericks Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)				Mavs Post (L)	Maveric-ks Insider	Rangers Insider	Cowboys Legends
FX	31	56	59	64	69	Movie		★★★ Ted ('12, Com) Mila Kunis, Mark Wahlberg.						★★ Ted 2 ('15, Com) Mark Wahlberg, Seth MacFarlane.		★ Ted 2	
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	F.House	Full House	F.House	F.House	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Love It or List It		H.Hunt	H.Hunt	Home Town (N)		H.Hunt	House (N)	H.Hunt	House	Home Town	
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers (N)		(:05) Pawn	(:35) Pawn	(:05) Pawn	(:35) Pawn	(:05) Amer. Pickers	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	The First 48 "Hot Ride/ Debt Collector"		The First 48: Lost "Lester Street"		The First 48: Lost "Birthday Girl"		The First 48: Lost "Girl Fight" (N)		The First 48: Lost "The Good Son"		The First 48: Lost "Lester Street"	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball (N)		All in (N)		Rachel Maddow (N)		The Last Word (N)		The 11th Hour (N)		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	43				High Roller		Super Bowl Opening Night "Super Bowl LII" (L)						Mikaela Shiffrin (N)		High Roller	
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Hunter	Hunter (N)	★★★ Diary of a Wimpy Kid				Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:00) Spider-Man 3		Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	American Dad!	Conan Aaron Paul, Kellen Erskine (N)		Detour "The Run"	Conan
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:30) ★ Bad for Bu...		★ Skyjack ('41, Rom) Claudette Colbert.				★★★★ It Happened One Night				★ Bluebeard's Eig...	
TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado (N)		José José, el princi		Sangre de mi Tie (N)		Señora acero (N)		Al rojo	Titulares	Sangre de mi Tierra	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Yes Dress "Everything Is on the Line"		By the Ton "The Family Journey Begins"		By the Ton "Stepping on the Scale"		Family by the Ton "One Step at a Time"		By the Ton "The Family Journey Begins"		By the Ton "Stepping on the Scale"	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	(5:00) ★★★★ Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi ('83, Adv) Mark Hamill.						The Allenist "A Fruitful Partnership" (N)		Law & Order "Sport of Kings"		Law & Order "In God We Trust"	
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	MASH	M*A*S*H	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Mom	Mom	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	NCIS "Decompressed"		WWE Monday Night Raw						(:05) Modern	(:35) Modern	(:05) Modern	(:35) Modern
WGN	19	85				Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	★★★ The Departed Leonardo DiCaprio. Working for the State Police and the Irish Mafia, two men go undercover to get evidence.						Bellevue "Pilot"	

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Marriage is in big trouble over husband's little lies

DEAR ABBY

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.



DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for 22 years. We've been together for 26. We've had our ups and downs, and separated for three months back in 2008, but we went to marriage counseling and got back together.

I have recently realized that my husband is an accomplished liar and has been from day one. To top it off, he lies about stupid things, which makes me wonder what important things he's lying about. When I express my feelings about this, he swears he will never lie again, blah blah blah — and damn if I don't catch him again! Is this marriage doomed because he can't stop lying? And how do I trust anything he ever says to me? — UNTRUSTING IN MARYLAND

DEAR UNTRUSTING: Successful marriages are based on trust and communication. Yours is in serious trouble.

Most people who lie do so because they are trying to make themselves look better or are not proud of whatever it is they are attempting to cover up. However, those who lie about "stupid" things may be compulsive liars who can't control the impulse. If your spouse falls into this category, a licensed mental health professional may be able to help him overcome his problem, but there are no guarantees.

DEAR ABBY: My elderly mother, my daughter, her boyfriend and I are planning a trip to Las Vegas. Because of the costs involved, we are considering sharing a room with two queen beds. The plan would be for me and my mother to share one bed, and my daughter and her boyfriend to share the other.

My wife thinks this is weird — that my mother and I should share a bed. I explained that it will be a queen bed, and I don't understand why she thinks it is strange. This will save us around $1,000 that a second room would cost. What do you think? — RALPH IN OHIO

DEAR RALPH: Is saving the money more important to you than privacy, comfort and propriety? Your wife may have been thinking along those lines when she suggested the "boys" sleep with the boys and the "girls" sleep together. Before rendering an opinion, I'd have to know what your daughter, her boyfriend and your mother think about this arrangement, because unless you all agree, it might make more sense to request a cot or bring an air mattress with you.

P.S. If one of you gets lucky in Vegas, maybe you can afford a second room.

DEAR ABBY: After years of nagging about thank-you notes, this is how I'm encouraging my younger family members to acknowledge gifts: We have the child create a big thank-you note or draw a picture, hold it with a big smile along with the gift and take a photo, which we send electronically.

We made a rule that they can't play with the gift until the thank-you is done, and even little folks understand it. It's fun and immediate. They usually get a quick note of appreciation back, and the giver gets a keepsake of the occasion. — NEW AGE GRANDMA

DEAR GRANDMA: That's a wonderful idea, not only because it utilizes technology, but also because it requires SOME effort on the part of the little ones. Good for you.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Bidding Quiz

Q 1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠Q97♡A10♢K843♣Q532

Partner opens one club and right-hand opponent bids two spades, weak. What call do you make?

A — Three clubs would be an acceptable bid with some problems — partner might not have four clubs and, also, you would bid three clubs with less. Bid two no-trump. That's about right on values.

Q 2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠J♡K43♢87542♣KQ65

Partner opens one no-trump, 15-17, and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

A — Puppet Stayman, asking for a five-card major, would be a useful tool here. Most of us don't have fancy conventions for a hand like this, so bid three no-trump and hope for the best.

Q 3 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠Void♡AJ764♢AJ73♣KJ92

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♡	Pass	2♢	Pass

What call would you make?

A — If partner's bid created a game force, then we would have several sensible choices. Failing that, we must show our extra values as a supporting hand. Bid four diamonds.

Q 4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠Q98♡AJ92♢K8♣A864

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Pass	2♠	?

What call would you make?

A — No action is completely sound, but we would hate this to be passed out and we end up defending this low-level contract. Double, and pass with a fake smile on your face should partner bid diamonds.

TOPS@ iTUNES

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Apps

App Store Official Charts for the week ending Jan. 21:

Top Paid iPhone Apps:
1. Minecraft, Mojang
2. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
3. Pocket Build, MoonBear LTD
4. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
5. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
6. Getting Over It, Bennett Foddy
7. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi
8. Facetune, Lightricks Ltd.
9. NBA 2K18, 2K
10. iSchedule, HotSchedules

Top Free iPhone Apps:
1. Google Arts & Culture, Google, Inc.
2. Finger Driver, Ketchapp
3. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
4. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.
5. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
6. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
7. Sweatcoin - Coin For Sweat App, Sweatco Ltd
8. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.
9. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
10. Infinite Golf, Voodoo

Top Paid iPad Apps:
1. Minecraft, Mojang
2. Procreate, Savage Interactive Pty Ltd
3. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
4. Notability, Ginger Labs
5. Toca Life: Pets, Toca Boca AB
6. The Game of Life, Marmalade Game Studio
7. Five Nights at Freddy's, Scott Cawthon
8. GoodNotes 4, Time Base Technology Limited
9. Toca Kitchen 2, Toca Boca AB
10. The Escapists, Team17 Software Ltd

Top Free iPad Apps:
1. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
2. Run Sausage Run!, Crazy Labs
3. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.
4. Kick the Buddy, Chill Fleet
5. ROBLOX, Roblox Corporation
6. Color by Number: Coloring Book, Fun Games For Free
7. UNICORN - Color by Number Game, AppsYouLove
8. Pixel Art - Color by Number, Easybrain
9. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
10. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.



"Blade Runner 2049"

Movies

iTunes Movies U.S. charts for week ending Jan. 21:

iTunes Movies US Charts:
1. Blade Runner 2049
2. American Made
3. It (2017)
4. The Foreigner (2017)
5. Geostorm
6. Dunkirk (2017)
7. Happy Death Day
8. Battle of the Sexes
9. The Emoji Movie
10. The Mountain Between Us

iTunes Movies US Charts - Independent:
1. Home Again (2017)
2. Wind River (2017)
3. Loving Vincent
4. Marshall
5. Columbus
6. Brad's Status
7. The Final Year
8. Good Time
9. The Beyond
10. Newness

Music

iTunes Official Music Charts for the week ending Jan. 25:

Top Songs
1. God's Plan, Drake
2. Perfect, Ed Sheeran
3. Diplomatic Immunity, Drake
4. Havana (feat. Young Thug), Camila Cabello
5. Meant to Be (feat. Florida Geo...), Bebe Rexha
6. Finesse (Remix) (feat. Cardi B), Bruno Mars
7. Thunder, Imagine Dragons
8. rockstar (feat. 21 Savage), Post Malone
9. No Name, NF
10. Supplies, Justin Timberlake

Top Albums
1. The Greatest Showman (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
2. M A N I A, Fall Out Boy
3. Hallelujah Nights, LANCO
4. Good News, Rend Collective
5. Kidz Bop 37, KIDZ BOP Kids
6. Ruins, First Aid Kit
7. ÷, Ed Sheeran
8. Hysteria, Def Leppard
9. Grimmest Hits, Black Label Society
10. vertigo, EDEN

Source: Apple Inc.



AP file photo

Alex Hawkinson, the founder of Samsung-owned smart-home appliance maker SmartThings, poses Dec. 7, 2017, in New York. Hawkinson spoke to The Associated Press about the industry's evolution and how artificial intelligence is set to make internet connected devices even more useful.

SmartThings' founder: Smart home begins with lighting

By Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Many everyday appliances are connecting to the internet these days, allowing people to control them with apps and voice commands. More homes are embracing this, especially as people get comfortable using smart speakers such as the Amazon Echo and Google Home.

For five years, SmartThings has been making smart-home products and a system for connecting similar products from other companies. Samsung bought the company in 2014 to expand its portfolio of internet-connected and automated services. SmartThings' founder and CEO, Alex Hawkinson, spoke with The Associated Press recently about how smart-home products are evolving. Questions and answers have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What's the most common smart-home product, based on what you're seeing connected to SmartThings' systems?

A: Eighty percent of our base has connected lighting. It's really simple to get started with the bulbs. You can go really deep with the in-wall switches and things. People love that it doesn't cross into the security and privacy concerns a lot of people have with connected speakers and cameras.

Q: Wait, are these products safe?

A: We pride ourselves in being leaders. Past problems tend to be low-quality devices, but they scare people. Obviously, adoption is accelerating, so it's not the big holdback, but it would be wrong for me to say that's not a question. Have a conversation about connected locks with somebody, and you'll probably get like, "but it could be hacked," even though the reality is burglars are going to just break the door down.

Q: How are smartphones helping everyday people embrace smart homes?

A: There's more connected to your phones in your life. A lot of people a couple years ago hadn't had the experience of pushing a button and seeing a car show up. Pushing a button and seeing some groceries, or some food show up. The continued maturity of the smartphone has caused consumers to recognize that the world is totally hyper-connected. That psychology makes it ready for people to say, "Why not have this?"

Q: How will artificial intelligence improve the experience?

A: The No. 1 issue in security monitoring is false positives. You arm it, and you set it off when you come out to get a glass of water. AI's going to solve this. We can see in the pattern of data what's a false positive or not, without the user having to program stuff. When your smartphone is upstairs, and you are asleep because it hasn't been in use for a while, you can probably arm the security. But if you pick the phone up and there's been no motion downstairs, it's probably you coming downstairs.

Or take lighting. You'll get to this point this year where, "Hey, make it look like I'm home when I'm going out of town." It's got enough data where it can emulate you being home. They can follow the pattern and vary it to make it look real.

REVIEW

From 2B

yet another set of spikes emerges from the floor to take your life. Oh, and by the way, if you try to run past those spikes, they chase you down the corridor.

And that's just the first stage. Many more levels of torment await.

The goal, it seems, is to drive players nuts, although Oshiba says in his warning that he "can't take any responsibilities for the displeasure this game may cause."

The developer's twisted sense of humor charmed many in the gaming community. "Watching this brutal Super Mario clone spring hilarious, unexpected traps on a poor player is hypnotic," wrote Mike Fahey, an editor at the video game site Kotaku.

"It's brilliant, but cruel," opined Michael McWhertor of Polygon.

Every frame of the game is loaded with deadly surprises. Gone are the easy-to-kill goombas and user-friendly landscapes from the Mario Bros. franchise. In "Trap Adventure 2," as soon as you've conquered one obstacle, another pops up to sabotage you. Lava erupts from fiery pits. Giant circular saw blades whiz past your head. Floors cave in, bombs explode all around you, and boulders roll in from out-of-frame and chase you across the screen.

The only thing as frustrating as the game itself is the music, which, while wonderfully composed, becomes ever more cloying as you fail over and over and over again to make the jump over that first set of spikes. A Washington Post reporter who downloaded "Trap Adventure 2" tried for 20 minutes and kept getting impaled. Other players have had more success, and a few aficionados have shown that the game is, in fact, conquerable.

The game is more than just a wicked practical joke, however. As many have noted, there's some serious ingenuity and creativity behind Oshiba's design.

Normal video games created in the style of "Mario Bros." present players with a set of puzzles and enemies that can typically be overcome with ease. The simplicity of the gameplay is part of what makes them so popular. "Trap Adventure 2 takes this model and turns it on its head, bombarding players with layers upon layers of obstacles deliberately designed to foil their progress.

"Trap Adventure 2 may look like a Super Mario Bros. clone, but it uses that familiarity against the players," wrote Blair Marnell on Nerdist. "Every tactic that would have worked in Mario's adventure becomes a death trap in this game, as the stage turns against the player at nearly every opportunity."

McWhertor, of Polygon, had a similar take: "Oshiba's Trap Adventure games lean into subverting the player's expectations, making presumably safe platforms into lethal traps."

Kataku's comments section was also full of praise for the developer.

"Whoever designed this game thought of everything," one reader wrote. "I don't think it would be half as funny without that degree of prescience about player behavior."

Oshiba, on the other hand, takes a modest view of his creation.

"It's terrible," he tweeted, "so I won't recommend it."

DENN

From 2B

scan my own bar codes in incompetent solitude.

The Big Brother aspect of our shopping trip, though, still bothered me. I told Benjamin how I paid cash for prenatal vitamins when I was pregnant with him, to preserve our privacy. In 2001 that felt paranoid. Now it seems prescient — and, to his generation, pointless.

SPEAKER

From 2B

Music's 45 million song catalogue. HomePod can handle conversational questions as well such as "Hey Siri, can you play something totally different?"

Still, HomePod will launch without an important audio feature: the ability to link HomePods together. That's something Google and Amazon's speakers can now do. Apple said this feature won't be available until later this year.

What's more, dedicated speaker companies such as Sonos are partnering with Google and Amazon to make smart speakers sound better. So Apple is facing plenty of competition as it tries to make a mark as a late entry into the market.

Intelligence: The HomePod should be able to do the things that Siri already does in your phone, such as set timers and check the weather. The speaker will have Apple's connected home software built in, meaning it will be compatible with the light bulbs, thermostats and other devices that already work with your iPhone. It will also work with the Apple TV as a speaker for both music and video.

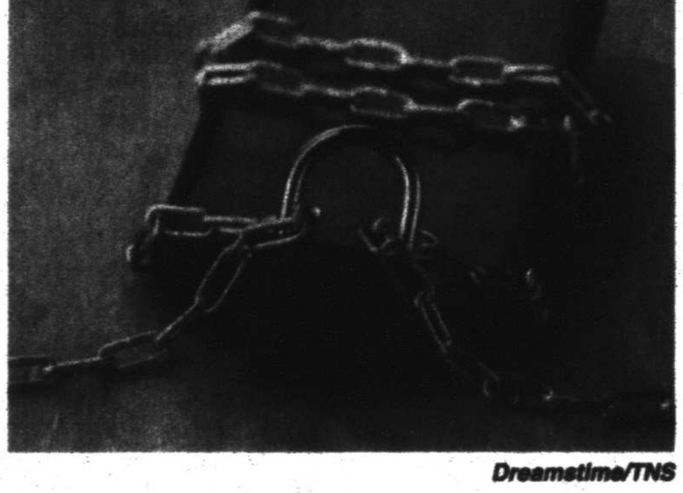
HomePod will also work as a speakerphone for your smartphone calls, either on speakerphone or using FaceTime's audio chat.

But much of its intelligence will connected to the abilities of Siri, which is already under fire for not being as conversational or versatile as Google's Assistant or Amazon's Alexa.

Then there's another big question: How well will Apple play with others to make non-Apple devices and software work with the HomePod?

Both Google and Amazon have aggressively courted other companies to beef up skills (both useful and playful) for their speakers: playing trivia games, ordering pizzas, meowing like a cat, etc.

Apple announced that HomePod will work with a few popular services such as Evernote and WhatsApp. And it has strong ties with app developers thanks to its App Store. But the company will have to round up those relationships to a new platform to make the HomePod worth its high price.



Dreamstime/TNS

Photo illustration for overcoming phone addiction.

JARAMILLO

From 2B

When we get bored, we reach immediately for our phones. During my break from social media, I found that when I got bored, it was a good thing. It gave me motivation to get back into journaling, running and do more leisure reading.

■ Turn off notifications you can live without.

I'll be honest and say I couldn't completely eliminate social media. I kept Twitter and Instagram on my phone, but I turned off the notifications. I don't need to know every time there's a new comment or follower on a platform. I found this simple change makes me less likely to open up the app, too.

■ Going back to texts and calls is healthy.

Nearly all of my conversations with people I care about take place on various platforms. Sometimes it was a Facebook comment, other times it was a Snapchat message. Keeping up with everything became annoying. My friends now know that the best way to contact me is through a simple text or — gasp! — a phone call.

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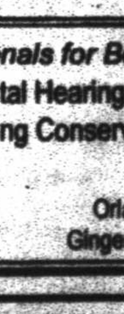

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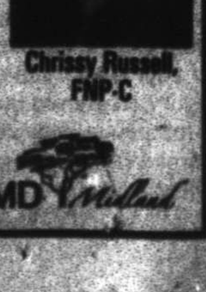

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SPORTS

Catch up with Midland College basketball on **Page 2C.**

Carr, Walker, Miller help AFC win Pro Bowl

By Mark Long
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Delanie Walker held the ball in the end zone and waited for his teammates to celebrate.

They came from every direction: Left, right and even the bench.

The Tennessee Titans tight end caught two touchdown passes, including an 18-yarder with 1:31 remaining , and the AFC beat the NFC 24-23 in a rain-soaked Pro Bowl on Sunday.

Teammates mobbed him. Pittsburgh receiver Antonio Browns, Baltimore safety Eric Weddle, Jacksonville cornerback Jalen Ramsey and Steelers coach Mike Tomlin were among those who left the sideline to congratulate Walker.

"That's as real as it gets in football," Oakland quarterback Derek Carr said: "You always want to win, especially with money on the line."

The winning team got $64,000 each, double the losing team's share.

"You've got guys on the sidelines saying, 'I need that money,'" Carr said.

Carr completed 11 of 15 passes for 115 yards and connected with Walker on a skinny post for the winning score.

Denver's Von Miller sealed the victory when he caused and recovered a fumble by Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff. Miller posed problems all afternoon for the NFC.

"I go all out all the time," Miller said.

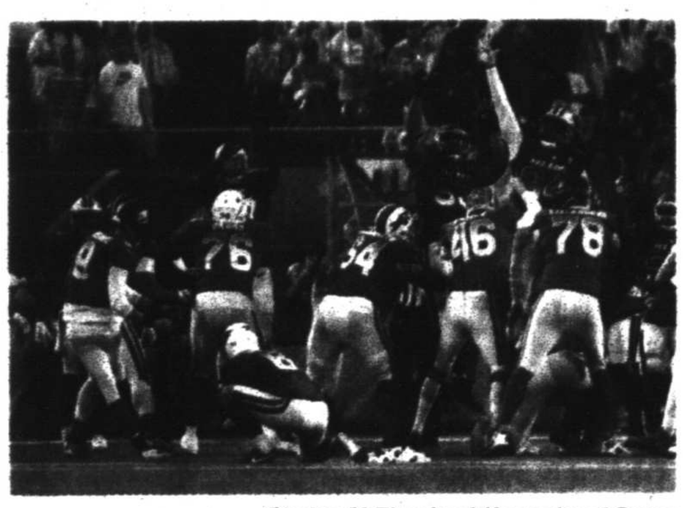
Although the game was more two-hand touch than hard-nosed football, there were plenty of defensive gems.

Arizona's Patrick Peterson had two interceptions. Minnesota's Harrison Smith returned a pick for a score. And two players took exception to one aggressive takedown. Tennessee left tackle Taylor Lewan and Oakland guard Kelechi Osemele had words for New Orleans defensive end Cameron Jordan after he drilled Indianapolis tight end Jack Doyle.

None of those plays compared to Miller's game-clinching strip-sack.

"I knew Von was going to do it," Broncos teammate Aqib Talib said.

Please see **AFC/4C**



Phelan M Ebenhack/Associated Press

AFC kicker Chris Boswell (9), of the Pittsburgh Steelers, kicks a field goal to win the game during the second half of the NFL Pro Bowl game against the NFC on Sunday in Orlando, Fla.

Another win in Australia



Vincent Thian/Associated Press

Switzerland's Roger Federer gestures with his glass of champagne at a press conference after defeating Croatia's Marin Cilic in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships Monday in Melbourne, Australia.

Federer beats Cilic in final; wins 20th major title

By John Pye
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — As Roger Federer cried while accepting his 20th Grand Slam title, Rod "Rocket" Laver took a chance to snap a picture for posterity.

Federer has won more major singles titles than any man, including a record-equaling six on the court that bears the great Rod Laver's name at Melbourne Park.

This one, following a tension-filled, momentum-swinging 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 win over Marin Cilic in Sunday's Australian Open final, was a keeper.

Laver has been involved in the on-court presentations in the past, witnessing Federer's tears at close range. This time, the 79-year-old Laver — the only man to twice win all four Grand Slam titles in one season — held up his mobile phone to get the shot from the stands.

"I didn't see that through my thick tears, that he was taking a picture of me crying," Federer said. He joked in a TV interview that, "I couldn't lift my head, I was so embarrassed."

Surely, it's only an embarrassment of riches.

Federer arrived in Melbourne at the start of 2017 after an extended injury layoff and on a Grand Slam title drought that dated back to 2012 at Wimbledon. Against the odds, he reached the final and then beat Rafael Nadal in a classic, five-set encounter. Now, having successfully defended his Australian title, Federer has won three of the last five majors in a stunning career resurgence.

"I'm so happy. It's unbelievable," Federer said, taking deep breaths and choking back tears. "Of course, winning is an absolute dream come true — the fairytale continues for us, for me, after the great year I had last year, it's incredible."

Federer started to tear up toward the end of the trophy ceremony. He then received a standing ovation as tears streamed down his face.

At the age of 36 years, 173 days, Federer became the second-oldest man to win a Grand Slam singles title in the Open era after Ken Rosewall, who won the 1972 Australian Open at 37.

The match wasn't entirely without controversy after organizers decided to close the roof for the final, just as they had for the afternoon mixed doubles final when Mate Pavic and Gabriela Dabrowski beat Rohan Bopanna and Timea Babos for the title.

Former champions were among the commentators questioning the decision, suggesting there'd been hotter days when the heat policy was not enacted.

"I was surprised to hear they had the heat rule in place for a night match. I never heard that before," Federer said. "For me, it doesn't change anything."

Tournament referee Wayne McEwen has the option of closing the roof when the temperature reaches 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and a measure called the wet-bulb globe temperature — which combines factors such as heat, humidity and breeze — reaches 32.5C (90.5F).

The temperature hit 38C (100F) an hour before the men's final, when the WGBT reading was 32.7C (91F).

"With no dramatic reduction forecast,

Please see **OPEN/5C**

Rakell, Boeser lead Pacific Division to All-Star win

By Fred Goodall
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Rickard Rakell had two goals and rookie Brock Boeser, Johnny Gaudreau and Drew Doughty also scored to help the Pacific Division win the NHL All-Star game with a 5-2 victory over the Atlantic Division on Sunday.

Pacific goalies Marc-Andre Fleury and Mike Smith teamed to allow just four goals in the two games their team captured to claim the $1 million shared by the winners of the four-team divisional tournament played in an entertaining three-on-three format.

The Canucks' Boeser, the only rookie among 15 first-time All-Stars, also had a goal in the Pacific's 5-2 semifinal victory over the Central Division and named game MVP.

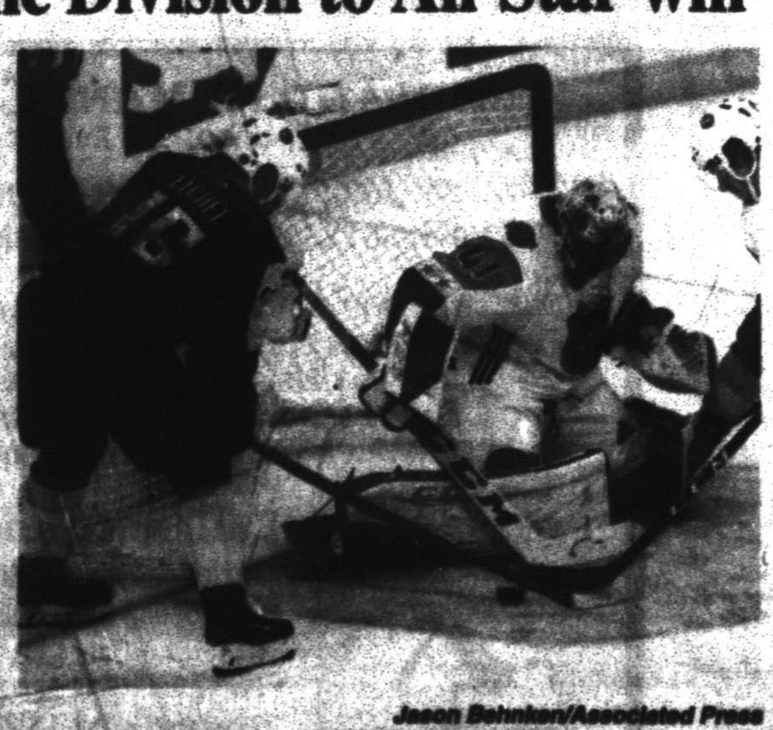
Mike Green had two goals for the Atlantic, one off both Fleury and Smith in the final.

All-Star weekend began with a free outdoor concert headlined by Fitz and the Tantrums and also featured a three-day fun fest for fans, as well as the annual skills competition that wrapped up Saturday's festivities.

Adding spice and a unique flavor to the experience was Tampa's annual Gasparilla Pirate Invasion, which drew what officials estimated as an additional 200,000 people to the downtown waterfront for a parade and other activities.

Players walked the red carpet, posing for pictures and signing autographs before entering Amalie Arena for the first All-Star game played in Tampa since 1999, the last

Please see **NHL/3C**



Jason Behnken/Associated Press

Pacific Division goalie Mike Smith (41), of the Calgary Flames, stops an attempt by Atlantic Division's Jack Eichel, left, of the Buffalo Sabres,during the NHL All-Star game Sunday in Tampa, Fla. The Pacific Division defeated the Atlantic Division 5-2 in the championship game.

Patriots don't need any help but they tend to get it

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

Opponents tend to freak out against Tom Brady and Bill Belichick just when they're about to conquer the New England Patriots' dynastic duo. The Philadelphia Eagles swear they won't fall into that trap if they have the chance in Super Bowl 52.

The pair have built such a reputation of coming through in the clutch that foes often outthink themselves with conservative, uncommon or unconventional calls against the five-time champs.

Think Seattle in Super Bowl 49 and Atlanta in Super Bowl 51.

The Patriots have built an extreme confidence through five Super Bowl-winning seasons under Brady and Belichick and are disciplined when other teams get discombobulated, like last month when they sniffed out Ben Roethlisberger's fake spike and intercepted him in the end zone, reshaping the AFC playoff picture.

"You're basically talking about experience and knowing that no matter what the score is, it's not insurmountable," said ex-NFL quarterback Joe Theismann.

He pointed to Brady's habit of making a few plays every game that swing momentum and Belichick's knack for coaxing his counterparts into beating themselves — like the Indianapolis Colts did with their fake punt fiasco in 2015.

"The New England Patriots find a way to make a play when no one else seems to be able to do that," Theismann said. "Teams that haven't been in that situation don't really understand the ability of New England teams to be able to overcome darn near anything."

Like the 25-point second-half deficit Brady rallied the Patriots from in last year's Super Bowl or the 10-point fourth-quarter hole he dug them out of against Jacksonville in the AFC championship last week.

"You've got to play a damn near perfect game against them," lamented Jaguars safety Jarrod Wilson.

Therein lies the trap.

The Jaguars were on the verge of knocking off New England when a flurry of follies in Foxborough aided Brady's two-TD rally that sent the seemingly impervious Patriots back to another Super Bowl.

"You can never have a safe lead with (No.) 12 at the helm," Jaguars safety Tashaun Gipson said. "... That's Tom Brady, the greatest to ever lace up the cleats at the quarterback position."

And Belichick, arguably the best to ever roam the sideline.

The Eagles swear they're not going to give the Patriots any help next Sunday in Minneapolis.

"You know what? If I make this all about them, we're in trouble," coach Doug Pederson said. "Honestly. We're in trouble. Everything's going to be written about it, has been written about it, talked about it, discussed, debated and it's about us. And I'll keep saying that. It's about what we do and how well we execute and I can't worry about that."

The Eagles (15-3), who statistically can make the case for being the best opponent Brady and Belichick have ever faced in the Super Bowl, don't see themselves getting out of their comfort zone against New England (15-3).

"Doug is going to do what got us to

Please see **PATRIOTS/4C**

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

Hockey
2018 AHL All-Star Game, 6 p.m., NHL

Men's College Basketball
Notre Dame at Duke, 6 p.m., ESPN
Northwestern at Michigan, 6 p.m., FS1
Lehigh at Holy Cross, 6 p.m., CBSSN
Kansas at Kansas State, 8 p.m., ESPN
Nebraska at Wisconsin, 8 p.m., BTN

Men's Soccer
La Liga: Celta de Vigo vs. Real Betis, 1:50 p.m., beIN, beIN E

National Basketball Association
Miami at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW
Boston at Denver, 8 p.m., NBAtv

NBA G League
Texas at Memphis, 10:30 a.m., ELVN
Iowa at Sioux Falls, 6:30 p.m., ELVN

Tennis
WTA: St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy, 4 a.m., beIN

Women's College Basketball
Kentucky at Arkansas, 6 p.m., SEC
Marquette at DePaul, 8 p.m., FS1

RADIO

National Basketball Association
Miami at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

JC Men's Basketball
New Mexico JC at Midland College, 7:45 p.m.

JC Women's Basketball
New Mexico JC at Midland College, 5:45 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASKETBALL
NBA G League
AGUA CALIENTE CLIPPERS — Acquired F Dakarai Allen from the available player pool.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned D Sergey Zborovsky from Hartford (AHL) to Greenville (ECHL).

American Hockey League
BELLEVILLE SENATORS — Returned D Willie Corrin and Jamie Doornbusch on loan to Brampton (ECHL).
SPRINGFIELD THUNDERBIRDS — Returned G Branden Komm on loan to Manchester (ECHL).
SYRACUSE CRUNCH — Returned F Stephen MacAulay on loan to Florida (ECHL).
TORONTO MARLIES — Recalled G Cal Heeter and F Max Novak from Orlando (ECHL).

ECHL
ECHL — Suspended Cincinnati LW Alex Kile one game.
ATLANTA GLADIATORS — Claimed D Eric Shand off waivers from Rapid City.
BRAMPTON BEAST — Released G Carmine Guerriero and D Mackenzie Braid and Jake Flegel.
ORLANDO SOLAR BEARS — Released G Brett Epstein as emergency backup. Added G Greg Ozubko as emergency backup.
TOLEDO WALLEYE — Signed F Mike Embach.

SOCCER
National Women's Soccer League
NWSL — Announced the Boston Breakers will cease operations before the 2018 season.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	35	15	.700	—
Toronto	33	15	.688	1
Philadelphia	24	22	.522	9
New York	22	28	.440	13
Brooklyn	18	32	.360	17

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	28	21	.571	—
Washington	27	22	.551	1
Charlotte	20	28	.417	7½
Orlando	14	34	.292	13½
Atlanta	14	35	.286	14

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	29	19	.604	—
Milwaukee	26	22	.542	3
Indiana	27	23	.540	3
Detroit	22	26	.458	7
Chicago	18	32	.360	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	35	13	.729	—
San Antonio	33	19	.635	4
New Orleans	27	22	.551	8½
Memphis	17	31	.354	18
Dallas	16	34	.320	20

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	32	20	.615	—
Oklahoma City	30	20	.600	1
Portland	27	22	.551	3½
Denver	26	23	.531	4½
Utah	21	28	.429	9½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	40	10	.800	—
L.A. Clippers	25	24	.510	14½
L.A. Lakers	19	30	.388	20½
Phoenix	17	33	.340	23
Sacramento	15	34	.306	24½

Sunday's Scores
Houston 113, Phoenix 102
Milwaukee 110, Chicago 96
L.A. Clippers 112, New Orleans 103
Cleveland 121, Detroit 104
Oklahoma City 122, Philadelphia 112
Toronto 123, L.A. Lakers 111
San Antonio 113, Sacramento 98

Today's Games
Charlotte at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Miami at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Denver, 8 p.m.

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	49	34	12	3	71	175	125
Boston	47	29	10	8	66	156	116
Toronto	51	28	18	5	61	162	146
Detroit	48	19	21	8	46	126	146
Montreal	49	20	23	6	46	129	156
Florida	47	19	22	6	44	132	158
Ottawa	47	15	23	9	39	124	166
Buffalo	49	14	26	9	37	114	163

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	49	29	15	5	63	150	138
Columbus	49	27	19	3	57	131	137
Pittsburgh	51	27	21	3	57	151	153
New Jersey	48	24	16	8	56	144	146
Philadelphia	49	24	17	8	56	141	141
N.Y. Islanders	50	25	20	5	55	172	180
N.Y. Rangers	50	25	20	5	55	153	151
Carolina	49	22	19	8	52	137	154

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	50	29	13	8	66	164	136
Nashville	47	29	11	7	65	145	123
St. Louis	51	30	18	3	63	148	130
Dallas	50	28	18	4	60	155	134
Colorado	48	27	18	3	57	157	139
Minnesota	49	26	18	5	57	144	140
Chicago	49	23	19	7	53	146	136

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	48	32	12	4	68	164	128
San Jose	48	26	15	7	59	143	133
Calgary	49	25	16	8	58	137	135
Los Angeles	49	26	18	5	57	139	121
Anaheim	50	24	17	9	57	141	141
Edmonton	49	22	24	3	47	135	157
Vancouver	49	19	24	6	44	127	159
Arizona	50	12	29	9	33	118	172

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's Scores
Central All-Stars vs Pacific All-Stars: Pacific 5, Central 2
Metropolitan All-Stars vs Atlantic All-Stars: Atlantic 7, Metropolitan 4
All-Star Game Final: Pacific 5, Atlantic 2

Today's Games
No games scheduled

NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 6
Tennessee 22, Kansas City 21
Atlanta 26, Los Angeles Rams 13
Sunday, Jan. 7
Jacksonville 10, Buffalo 3
New Orleans 31, Carolina 26

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 13
Philadelphia 15, Atlanta 10
New England 35, Tennessee 14
Sunday, Jan. 14
Jacksonville 45, Pittsburgh 42
Minnesota 29, New Orleans 24

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 21
AFC
New England 24, Jacksonville 20
NFC
Philadelphia 38, Minnesota 7

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 28
At Orlando, Fla.
AFC 24, NFC 23

Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 4
At Minneapolis
New England vs. Philadelphia, 5:30 p.m. (NBC)

FIGHT SCHEDULE

Feb. 2
At WinnaVegas Casino & Resort, Sloan, Iowa (SHO), Ronald Ellis vs. Junior Younan, 10, for the vacant USBA super middleweight title.

Feb. 3
At Alder, Russia, Murat Gassiev vs. Yunier Dorticos, 12, for Gassiev's IBF and Dorticos' WBA World cruiserweight titles (World Boxing Super Series semifinals).
At Bank of America Center, Corpus Christi, Texas (ESPN), Gilberto Ramirez vs. Habib Ahmed, 12, for Ramirez's WBO super middleweight titles; Jerwin Ancajas vs. Israel Gonzalez, 12, for Ancajas' IBF super flyweight title; Jesse Hart v Thomas Awimbono, 10, super middleweights.

Feb. 4
At Naha, Japan, Daigo Higa vs. Moises Fuentes, 12, for Higa's WBC flyweight title.

Feb. 10
At Copper Box Arena, London, Zolani Tete vs. Omar Narvaez, 12, for Tete's WBO bantamweight title.
At Hartman Arena, Park City, Kansas (CBSSN), Tramaine Williams vs. Alexei Collado, 12, for the vacant WBO International super bantamweight title.
At Cancun, Mexico, Miguel Berchelt vs. Cristian Mijares, 12, for Berchelt's WBC junior lightweight title.

Feb. 16
At Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, Nev., Raymundo Beltran vs. Paulus Moses, 12, for the vacant WBO World lightweight title; Egidijus Kavaliauskas vs. David Avanesyan, 10, welterweights.

Feb. 17
At Manchester, England, George Groves vs. Chris Eubank Jr., 12, for Groves' WBA Super World and Eubanks' IBO super middleweight titles (World Boxing Super Series semifinals); Ryan Walsh vs. Isaac Lowe, 12, for Walsh's British featherweight title; Arfan Iqbal vs. Simon Vallily, 10, for Iqbal's English cruiserweight title.
At El Paso, Texas (FOX), Devon Alexander vs. Victor Ortiz, 12, welterweights; Caleb Plant vs. Rogelio Medina, 12, IBF super middleweight eliminator.
At Mandalay Bay Events Center, Las Vegas (SHO), Danny Garcia vs. Brandon Rios, 12, welterweights; David Benavidez vs. Ronald Gavril, 12, for Benavidez's WBC World super middleweight title.

Feb. 22
At Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, Indio, Calif. (ESPN), Joseph Diaz, Jr. vs. Victor Terrazas, 12, for Diaz's NABO featherweight title.

Feb. 24
At the Forum, Inglewood, Calif. (HBO), Wisaksil Wangek vs. Juan Francisco Estrada, 12, for Wangek's WBC World super flyweight title; Carlos Cuadras vs. McWilliams Arroyo, 10, junior bantamweights; Brian Viloria vs. Artem Dalakian, 12, for the vacant WBA World flyweight title.

Feb. 28
At Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Danny Roman vs. Ryo Matsumoto, 12, for Roman's WBA super bantamweight title.

March 1
At Tokyo, Luis Nery vs. Shinsuke Yamanaka, 12, for Nery's WBC World bantamweight title; Ryosuke Iwasa vs. Ernesto Saulong, 12, for Iwasa's IBF junior featherweight title.

March 3
At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., Deontay Wilder vs. Luis Ortiz, 12, for Wilder's WBC World heavyweight title.
At Madison Square Garden, New York (HBO), Sergey Kovalev vs. Igor Mikhalkin, 12, for Kovalev's WBO-IBO light heavyweight titles; Dmitry Bivol vs. Sullivan Barrera, 12, for Bivol's WBA World light heavyweight title.

March 10
At Paris, Brian Castano vs. Cedric Vitu, 12 rounds, for Castano's WBA World super welterweight title.
At Alamodome, San Antonio (SHO), Sergey Lipinets vs. Mikey Garcia, 12, for Lipinets's IBF junior welterweight title; Rances Barthelemy vs. Kiryl Relikh, 12, for the vacant WBA World super lightweight title; Richard Commey vs. Alejandro Luna, 12, lightweights; Ray Robinson vs. Yordenis Ugas, 12, welterweights; Mario Barrios vs. Andrey Klimov, 10, junior welterweights.
At Carson, Calif. (ESPN), Oscar Valdez vs. Scott Quigg, 12, for Valdez's WBO featherweight title; Andy Vences vs. Erick DeLeon, 10, junior lightweights.

March 17
At Madison Square Garden Theatre, New York (ESPN), Jose Ramirez vs. Amir Imam, 12, for the vacant WBC World super lightweight title; Felix Verdejo vs Antonio Lozada Jr., 10, lightweights; Christopher Diaz vs. Miguel Beltran Jr., 10, super featherweights.

April 14
At London, Terry Flanagan vs. Maurice Hooker, 12, for the vacant WBO super lightweight title.

MC BASKETBALL TODAY

WOMEN

NO. 2 NEW MEXICO JC AT MIDLAND COLLEGE

When/where: 5:45 p.m., Chaparral Center

Records: Midland College 11-8, 4-2 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; New Mexico Junior College 21-1, 5-1

Last WJCAC game: Midland College 69, Howard College 45; Odessa College 66, New Mexico JC 57

Notes: Midland College has gotten back into contention in the WJCAC thanks to two straight victories, including a blowout of the Hawks on Thursday night. MC held Howard to 23.8 percent shooting, limited its turnovers to just 12 and had a 46-33 rebounding edge. The Lady Chaparrals were led by Bianca Thacker's game-high 25 points, while Ogechi Nwodo had 10 off the bench. … NMJC lost its first game of the season Thursday as it was upset at Odessa College as the Lady Wranglers made 13 3-pointers and out-rebounded the Lady T-Birds, 58-35. NMJC was led by 6-foot-3 post Alexes Bryant and 6-0 sophomore forward Ni'Asia McIntosh, who each scored 14 points in the loss, while 5-9 freshman guard Tatiana Wright had 10.

Next: Midland College at South Plains College, 5:45 p.m. Thursday; Howard College at New Mexico JC, 6:45 p.m. (CST) Thursday

2017-18 WJCAC women's basketball standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
New Mexico JC	5	1	21	1
Frank Phillips	5	1	15	2
Midland College	4	2	11	8
Clarendon College	3	3	19	3
Western Texas	3	4	11	9
Howard College	2	5	12	11
Odessa College	2	4	14	7
South Plains	1	5	14	6

Thursday's Scores
Midland College 69, Howard College 45; Frank Phillips College 72, Western Texas College 50; Odessa College 66, New Mexico JC 57; Clarendon College 65, South Plains College 52

Monday's Games
New Mexico JC at Midland College; South Plains College at Odessa College; Clarendon College at Frank Phillips College; Howard College and Western Texas College are open

MEN

NEW MEXICO JC AT MIDLAND COLLEGE

When/where: 7:45 p.m., Chaparral Center

Records: Midland College 6-15, 2-4 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; New Mexico Junior College 13-8, 2-5

Last WJCAC game: Howard College 56, Midland College 54; Odessa College 95, New Mexico JC 84

Notes: Midland College suffered a heartbreaker Thursday as Howard College hit a late 3-pointer to escape with the victory. It was an old-school WJCAC game between the two teams as defense took center stage. And although it was a loss, MC coach Pat Rafferty said he was proud of his team and showed that the Chaparrals are capable of winning games in this tough conference. Against Howard, MC was led by Kayo Goncalves with 15 points, and Marquell Fraser and Amari Hale each had 14 points each. … NMJC comes into tonight's game on a four-game losing streak, which includes a loss at Odessa College on Thursday. NMJC trailed the Wranglers by one point at the half before giving up 59 points in the second half. Marcell Haskett, a 6-foot sophomore guard, had a game-high 25 points for the Thunderbirds, Franklyn Penn Jr. and Paul Williams each had 12, while Damontrez Hawes and Jacob Bodin each added 11.

Next: Midland College at South Plains College, 7:45 p.m. Thursday; Howard College at New Mexico JC, 8:45 p.m. (CST) Thursday

2017-18 WJCAC men's basketball standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Odessa College	7	0	18	2
South Plains	6	1	14	5
Clarendon College	4	3	14	7
Howard College	4	4	16	6
New Mexico Military	3	4	13	8
Western Texas	2	5	13	7
New Mexico JC	2	5	13	8
Midland College	2	5	6	15
Frank Phillips	2	5	10	11

Thursday's Scores
Howard College 56, Midland College 54; Frank Phillips College 69, Western Texas College 62; Odessa College 95, New Mexico JC 84; South Plains College 81, Clarendon College 55; New Mexico Military Institute 89, Northern New Mexico JV 86 (non-conference)

Monday's Games
New Mexico JC at Midland College; South Plains College at Odessa College; Clarendon College at Frank Phillips College; Western Texas College at New Mexico Military Institute; Howard College is open

-Compiled by Oscar LeRoy

TEXAS COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Associated Press

NO. 15 TEXAS A&M 91, VANDERBILT 67.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Chennedy Carter, the nation's top-scoring freshman, poured in 21 points and No. 15 Texas A&M cruised past Vanderbilt 91-67 on Sunday.

Carter, who came in averaging 20.8 points per game, made only 1 of 6 from the arc but was 10 of 15 otherwise for the Aggies (17-5, 6-2 SEC), who won their third straight and sixth in their last seven.

Danni Williams added 18 points, Khaalia Hillsman 16 and Anriel Howard 12. Jasmine Lumpkin had 13 rebounds as the Aggies ruled the boards 43-24 including 19 on the offensive glass.

The Aggies led 42-28 at halftime and broke the game wide open in the third quarter, outscoring the Commodores 32-19, including a 17-2 run over the final 3:43. They made 14 of 16 free throws in the period.

Chelsie Hall scored 16 points, Kayla Overbeck 14 and Christa Reed 13 for Vanderbilt (5-17, 1-7).

NO. 3 BAYLOR 83, NO. 20 WEST VIRGINIA 72

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Once Kalani Brown and Baylor got busy on the boards, they were fine.

Brown put up her third straight double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds, Kristy Wallace scored 25 points and third-ranked Baylor rallied in the second half to beat No. 20 West Virginia 83-72 on Sunday.

The Lady Bears (19-1, 9-0 Big 12) trailed 37-28 midway through the second quarter and were down 47-41 at halftime. Wallace and Brown led a 10-2 scoring run to open the second half.

Baylor finished the game shooting 35 of 65 (54 percent) from the field. WVU (17-5, 5-5) started out impressively, but made just 2 of 13 in the fourth quarter.

The Lady Bears outrebounded the Mountaineers 41-25, dominating the second half on the glass 23-8.

"We kind of separated ourselves in the second half rebounding," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said.

Wallace came within two points short of matching the career high she had at No. 6 Texas on Thursday. Dekeiya Cohen added 13.

After three straight scoreless games, Natalie Chou came back to have 13 points, shooting six of 12 from the field. It was her best performance since the Lady Bears' 89-49 win over Iowa State on Jan. 3.

"I told Natalie on the bench, 'shooters have to keep shooting,'" Mulkey said. "If you go 0-for-10, shoot it again. Don't lose your confidence."

Naomi Davenport scored 27 points for injury-plagued West Virginia. Teana Muldrow added 21 points and Chania Ray had 12.

"I thought our girls played hard, though," WVU coach Mike Carey said. "I told them in there 'we should've won that game.'"

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men

SOUTHWEST
Houston 63, South Florida 40
SMU 86, East Carolina 61

SOUTH
Clemson 72, Georgia Tech 70
Michigan St. 74, Maryland 68
N. Kentucky 72, Detroit 44
Richmond 66, Davidson 63

MIDWEST
Bradley 81, Indiana St. 73
Loyola of Chicago 70, N. Iowa 47
Purdue 74, Indiana 67
Seton Hall 88, DePaul 70
Villanova 85, Marquette 82
Wichita St. 90, Tulsa 71
Wright St. 64, Oakland 51

EAST
Bucknell 91, Boston U. 79
Princeton 86, Rowan University 50
St. Bonaventure 70, George Washington 52
St. Francis (Pa.) 72, Sacred Heart 71
Temple 85, UConn 57
Wagner 77, Robert Morris 64

FAR WEST
Cal St.-Fullerton 89, Hawaii 66
Southern Cal 77, California 59
Washington 80, Washington St. 62

Top 25 Fared

1. Villanova (20-1) beat Providence 89-69; beat Marquette 85-82.
2. Virginia (20-1) beat No. 18 Clemson 61-36; beat No. 4 Duke 65-63.
3. Purdue (21-2) beat No. 25 Michigan 92-88; beat Indiana 74-67.
4. Duke (18-3) beat Wake Forest 84-70; lost to No. 2 Virginia 65-63.
5. Kansas (17-4) lost to No. 12 Oklahoma 85-80; beat Texas A&M 79-68.
6. Michigan State (20-3) beat Illinois 87-74; beat Wisconsin 76-61; beat Maryland 74-68.
7. West Virginia (16-5) lost to TCU 82-73; lost to Kentucky 83-76.
8. Xavier (19-3) beat Marquette 89-70.
9. Cincinnati (19-2) beat Temple 75-42; beat Memphis 62-48.
10. North Carolina (16-6) lost to Virginia Tech 80-69; lost to N.C. State 95-91, OT.
11. Arizona (18-4) beat Colorado 80-71; beat Utah 74-73.
12. Oklahoma (15-5) beat No. 5 Kansas 85-80; lost to Alabama 80-73.
13. Ohio State (18-5) beat Nebraska 64-59; lost to Penn State 82-79.
14. Texas Tech (17-4) beat Oklahoma State 75-70; beat South Carolina 70-63.
15. Gonzaga (19-4) beat Portland 95-79; beat San Francisco 82-73.
16. Saint Mary's (21-2) beat BYU 75-62; beat Portland 72-55.
17. Wichita State (17-4) beat UCF 81-62; beat Tulsa 90-71.
18. Clemson (17-4) lost to No. 2 Virginia 61-36; beat Georgia Tech 72-70.
19. Auburn (19-2) beat Missouri 91-73; beat LSU 95-70.
20. Florida (15-6) lost to South Carolina 77-72; beat Baylor 81-60.
21. Arizona State (16-5) lost to Utah 80-77, OT; beat Colorado 80-66.
22. Tennessee (15-5) beat Vanderbilt 67-62; beat Iowa State 68-45.
23. Nevada (18-4) lost to Wyoming 104-103, 2OT.
24. Rhode Island (17-3) beat Fordham 78-58; beat Duquesne 61-58.
25. Michigan (17-6) lost to No. 3 Purdue 92-88.

Women

SOUTHWEST
Rice 53, Old Dominion 45
UTEP 50, North Texas 48

SOUTH
Auburn 69, Alabama 60
Fordham 67, George Mason 62
Georgia 66, Florida 57
James Madison 67, Coll. of Charleston 53
LSU 70, Tennessee 59
Liberty 61, Radford 56
Louisville 89, Wake Forest 52
Marshall 78, FIU 75
Miami 82, Virginia Tech 78
Middle Tennessee 84, Charlotte 45
Mississippi St. 69, Mississippi 49
NC State 62, Clemson 41
Notre Dame 100, Florida St. 69
Richmond 77, VCU 68
South Carolina 64, Missouri 54
South Florida 76, Temple 60
Texas A&M 91, Vanderbilt 67
Virginia 62, Georgia Tech 56
W. Kentucky 74, Louisiana Tech 64
William & Mary 63, Hofstra 53

MIDWEST
Creighton 81, Seton Hall 64
Drake 84, Bradley 75
Georgetown 65, Xavier 48
Green Bay 52, IUPUI 45
Indiana St. 67, Valparaiso 54
Kansas St. 63, Kansas 59
Loyola of Chicago 82, Evansville 63
Michigan 80, Northwestern 59
Milwaukee 59, Ill.-Chicago 44
N. Iowa 58, Illinois St. 36
Nebraska 92, Iowa 74
Purdue 88, Penn St. 73
Villanova 69, Butler 67
Wisconsin 70, Illinois 61

EAST
Baylor 83, West Virginia 72
Delaware 80, UNC-Wilmington 62
Drexel 58, Northeastern 50
Duke 58, Pittsburgh 46
Duquesne 73, St. Bonaventure 59
Elon 71, Towson 45
Iona 52, St. Peter's 42
Maine 69, UMBC 38
Manhattan 63, Monmouth (NJ) 53
Marist 78, Canisius 53
Penn 89, Gwynedd-Mercy 25
Providence 70, St. John's 68
Quinnipiac 84, Niagara 55
Saint Joseph's 75, La Salle 64
Syracuse 75, Boston College 57
UMass 61, Rhode Island 59

FAR WEST
Arizona St. 57, California 42
Oregon 84, Utah 68
Oregon St. 86, Colorado 71
Southern Cal 72, Washington 61
Stanford 79, Arizona 42
UCLA 79, Washington St. 71

Top 25 Fared

1. UConn (12-0) beat Memphis 93-36; beat Tulane 98-45.
2. Mississippi State (22-0) beat Florida 90-53; beat Mississippi 69-49.
3. Baylor (19-1) beat No. 6 Texas 81-56; beat No. 20 West Virginia 83-72.
4. Louisville (22-1) beat Miami 84-74; beat Wake Forest 89-52.
5. Notre Dame (20-2) beat Pittsburgh 87-53; beat No. 8 Florida State 100-69.
6. Texas (16-4) lost to No. 3 Baylor 81-56; beat Iowa State 87-55.
7. Oregon (20-3) beat Colorado 74-55; beat Utah 84-68.
8. Florida State (18-3) lost to No. 5 Notre Dame 100-69.
9. South Carolina (18-3) beat Arkansas 90-42; beat No. 11 Missouri 64-54.
10. Tennessee (17-4) beat Mississippi 75-66; lost to LSU 70-59.
11. Missouri (17-4) lost to No. 21 Georgia 62-50; lost to No. 9 South Carolina 64-54.
12. Ohio State (17-5) lost to No. 14 Maryland 99-69; lost to Iowa 103-89; beat Michigan State 78-62.
13. UCLA (17-4) beat Washington 88-69; beat Washington State 79-71.
14. Maryland (18-3) beat No. 12 Ohio State 99-69; beat Northwestern 88-65.
15. Texas A&M (17-5) beat LSU 69-59; beat Vanderbilt 91-67.
16. Michigan (19-4) beat Michigan State 74-48; beat Northwestern 80-59.
17. Oregon State (16-5) beat Utah 69-58; beat Colorado 86-71.
18. Duke (17-5) beat Boston College 75-50; beat Pittsburgh 58-46.
19. Oklahoma State (15-5) lost to Iowa State 78-69; beat Texas Tech 80-62.
20. West Virginia (17-5) beat Texas Tech 82-52; lost to No. 3 Baylor 83-72.
21. Georgia (19-2) beat No. 11 Missouri 62-50; beat Florida 66-57.
22. Green Bay (19-2) beat UIC 65-36; beat IUPUI 52-45.
23. California (15-6) beat Arizona 63-39; lost to No. 25 Arizona State 57-42.
24. TCU (15-5) beat Kansas State 68-63; beat Oklahoma 62-58.
25. Arizona State (15-7) lost to Stanford 74-50; beat No. 23 California 57-42.

No. 2 Virginia shuts down No. 4 Duke in ACC showdown

By John Marshall
Associated Press

The nation's top defense faced the top offense in an ACC showdown this past week.

The defense won it, and that could be Virginia coach Tony Bennett's ticket to his first Final Four.

Hounding Duke into difficult shots and slowing its transition game, No. 2 Virginia knocked off the fourth-ranked Blue Devils 65-63 on Saturday.

Kyle Guy hit two free throws with 6.1 seconds left and Virginia (20-1, 9-0 ACC) held Duke (18-3, 6-3) 28 points below its scoring average to win at Cameron Indoor Stadium for the first time since 1995.

"We can be as good as we want to be," Guy said.

The Cavaliers can make an argument for being the best team in college basketball this season.

Villanova (19-1, 6-1 Big East) has been No. 1 in the AP Top 25 the past three weeks and will likely remain there in Monday's poll after beating Marquette on Sunday.

But Virginia will likely see a spike in first-place votes after beating the nation's fourth-ranked team.

The Cavaliers have the best record in Division I, the nation's best defense (52.1 points per game) and the third-best field-goal percentage defense (37 percent).

Virginia hasn't lost since Dec. 5 to No. 7 West Virginia and has a 2 1/2-game lead over Louisville in the ACC after winning its 12th straight game. The Cavaliers also held No. 18 Clemson to 36 points in a 25-point victory last week.

"There's talent and I don't think our players sometimes get enough credit for their talent," Bennett said. "But there is a synergy or a chemistry that when they're right, it's even better."

Big 12 race

No. 5 Kansas' bid for a record 14th straight Big 12 title is getting tight.

The Jayhawks (17-4, 6-2 Big 12) appeared to be in control of the conference race, but an 85-80 loss to No. 12 Oklahoma cut their lead to one game over four teams.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION
UPCOMING EVENTS
2/12 6:00 pm Adoption Center Volunteer Orientation
2/16-18 PetSmart Charities National Adoption Weekend
PLEASE HELP US CONTROL OVERPOPULATION & PROTECT YOUR PET FROM STRESS & ACCIDENTAL PREGNANCIES.
$70 SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHERS AVAILABLE TO MIDLAND CITY & COUNTY RESIDENTS.
MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG/SPAYNEUTER-VOUCHERS
ENHANCED ADOPTION CENTER
Open for adoptions Mon. - Sat. 12-7 & Sun. 12-6
Adoption Fees (fully vetted & chipped):
Cats $110, Dogs $150
432.520.3134 ext. 7
Located within Midland's PetSmart Store
MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION
P.O. Box 53213
Midland, TX 79710
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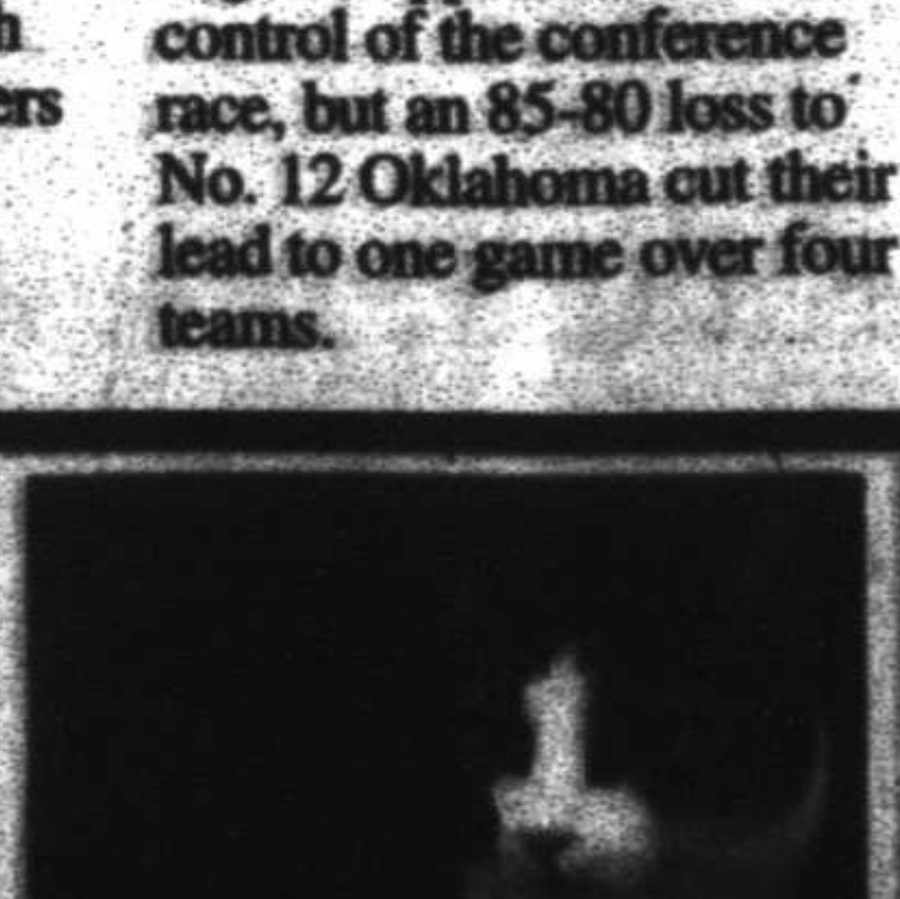
BROWN'S PERMIAN ELECTRIC CO.

Bobby Fitzgerald is a 1.5 yo tabby & white male. He has a delightfully comical personality & loves to play fetch. He gets along with some cats & has been in a home without kids or dogs.

Day, Noren need another day to decide winner at Torrey

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Jason Day watched the flight of his wedge for as long as he could and had to listen to the crowd to realize he nailed it.

"I can't see," he said to his caddie.

Alex Noren was 5-feet away from extending the playoff Sunday at the Farmers Insurance Open, a putt he could easily have missed except that the Swede could rely on experience.

He had a similar putt in regulation and knew it broke off to the right.

Day and Noren went at it for 77 holes at Torrey Pines, and after five sudden-death playoff holes, it still wasn't enough to crown a winner. They matched birdies in the dark on the par-5 18th, and then had no choice but to return Monday morning to decide the longest playoff in the 67-year history of the event.

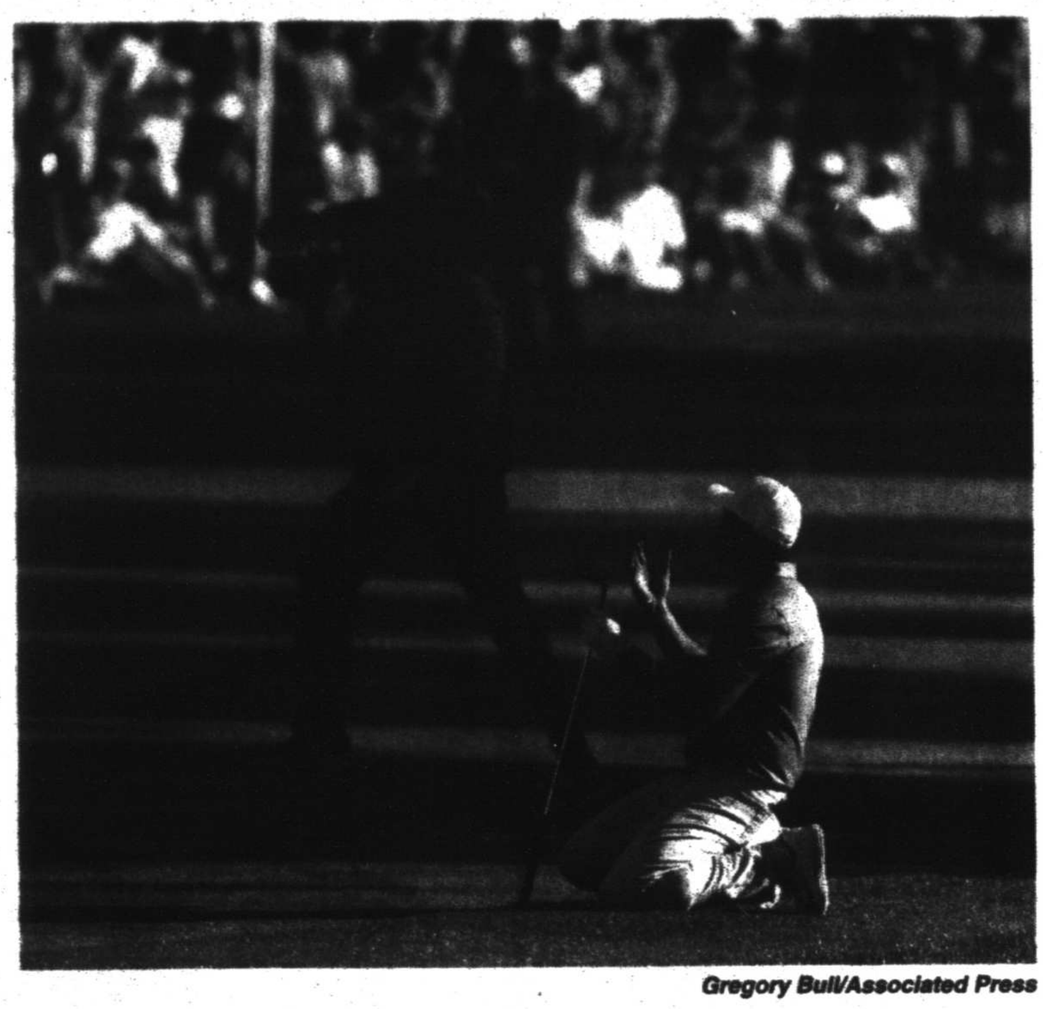
"We both played some pretty good golf, especially down 18 going back and forth, back and forth, which is good entertainment for the fans," Day said. "It's good to be back in the action, good to be back where I'm at right now. But I've got to get some rest."

Day has gone 20 months since his last victory.

Both players had a good chance to end it — Noren from 12 feet on the 18th in regulation, Day from 12 feet on the third playoff hole at the par-3 16th.

"It's so important over every shot, and maybe not as much as stroke play, you know, you can play safe sometimes and you can play aggressive here," Noren said. "Here, you need to play aggressive to finish it out."

Ryan Palmer began the playoff with them at 10-under 278. He was eliminated with a par on the 18th on the first extra hole.



Gregory Bull/Associated Press

Jason Day, of Australia, reacts after hitting off the fairway on the 18th hole of the South Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course during the final round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Sunday in San Diego.

Day closed with a 2-under 70. Palmer hit wedge to 2 feet for birdie for a 72 to get into the playoff. Noren, who had a one-shot lead at the start of the final round, closed with a 73.

By then, Tiger Woods was long gone.

It was the third playoff in three weeks on the PGA Tour, all of them lasting at least four holes.

And while it was entertaining, thousands of fans weren't around to see it. They left after Woods finished his round.

In only his second PGA Tour event since August 2015, Woods closed with a 72 and tied for 23rd, seven shots out of the lead.

Woods said it was a mostly positive week, and it was hard to argue considering he was returning from his fourth back surgery. He at least was closer to the fairway in the final round, but hit only three fairways for the third straight day.

"I got a lot out of my rounds," Woods said. "The short game wasn't something I was worried about. I knew what I could, what I've been doing at home. That wasn't going to be an issue. It was going to be, 'Can I shoot low scores?' I didn't, but I grinded out some good rounds."

The final hour of the tournament was a big grind.

Day, Noren, Palmer and J.B. Holmes — the latter three in the final group — were tied for the lead with six holes to go.

Day twice missed the green with a short iron in his hand, and one of those shots led to bogey.

He didn't make a birdie on the back nine in regulation. Noren appeared to have the steadiest game until he pulled his tee shot into the hazard on the 14th hole and did well to escape with bogey.

Noren also made a pair of 7-foot par putts to stay in a share of the lead, and then he missed a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole in regulation.

Palmer, trying to win for the first time in eight years, made consecutive bogeys from the bunker on No. 14 and short of the 15th green. He came up big on the 72nd hole with a wedge to 2 feet to get into the playoff.

Holmes effectively fell out of the hunt when he missed the 15th green with a wedge and took bogey, and then missed a 4-foot par putt on the 16th hole. He needed an eagle on the final hole, and took some 4 minutes trying to decide on which club to hit. He finally, curiously, decided to lay up and try to make his 3 by holing a sand wedge. He laid up in the rough and didn't come close to holing the shot.

Noren went next and hit his fairway metal over the green, into the tunnel below the TV tower and out the other side. He took his relief, and smartly played away from the flag to keep it from running by the hole and possibly down the slope into the water, though he missed the putt.

The Sony Open took six holes before Patton Kizzire won. The CareerBuilder Challenge went four holes before Jon Rahm prevailed.

Rahm had a chance to reach No. 1 in the world with a repeat victory at Torrey Pines.

He was two shots out of the lead until going into the water and making double bogey on the 18th hole of the third round. On Sunday, the 23-year-old Spaniard fell back early and never recovered. He closed with a 77.

Day's last victory was in May 2016 at The Players Championship when he was No. 1 in the world.

"I'll play all day tomorrow if I need to get the win," Day said.

Noren is a nine-time winner on the European Tour who is No. 19 in the world, trying to make his mark in America. He already has left quite an impression.

PGA-Farmers Insurance Open Scores
Sunday
At Torrey Pines Golf Club
s-South Course; Yardage: 7,698; Par: 72
n-North Course; Yardage: 7,258; Par: 72
San Diego
Purse: $6.9 million
(x-Ryan Palmer eliminated on first playoff hole; Jason Day and Alex Noren continue playoff Monday after tying through five playoff holes.)
Fourth Round

Jason Day	73s-64n-71s-70—278
Alex Noren	70s-66n-69s-73—278
x-Ryan Palmer	66s-67n-73s-72—278
J.B. Holmes	70s-72n-65s-72—279
Keegan Bradley	70s-69n-71s-70—280
Charles Howell III	69s-72n-71s-69—281
Tony Finau	65n-70s-73s-73—281
Robert Garrigus	69s-70n-73s-70—282
Harris English	70s-68n-73s-71—282
Marc Leishman	71s-69n-69s-73—282
Justin Rose	69n-70s-69s-74—282
Tom Hoge	72s-69n-72s-70—283
Hideki Matsuyama	72n-69s-73s-69—283
Retief Goosen	70n-68s-72s-73—283
Brandon Harkins	70n-70s-70s-73—283
Lanto Griffin	72s-68n-69s-74—283
Emiliano Grillo	70s-72n-67s-74—283
Luke List	69n-66s-73s-75—283
Gary Woodland	74n-68s-66s-75—283
Cameron Smith	71n-68s-73s-72—284
Rory Sabbatini	68n-73s-71s-72—284
Abraham Ancer	72s-69n-73s-70—284
Patrick Reed	68s-72n-72s-73—285
J.J. Henry	70s-72n-70s-73—285
Tiger Woods	72s-71n-70s-72—285
Chesson Hadley	71n-72s-71s-71—285
J.J. Spaun	70n-71s-69s-75—285
Michael Kim	69n-68s-70s-78—285
Maverick McNealy	72s-70n-72s-72—286
Russell Knox	69n-73s-69s-75—286
Kevin Streelman	71s-68n-71s-76—286
Brendan Steele	70n-72s-68s-76—286
Jon Rahm	68s-66n-75s-77—286
Corey Conners	72s-68n-70s-76—286
Chris Kirk	70s-71n-72s-74—287
Adam Hadwin	71s-70n-72s-74—287
Charley Hoffman	71s-70n-71s-75—287
Cody Gribble	70s-70n-74s-73—287
Kevin Tway	72s-71n-68s-76—287
Brice Garnett	69n-70s-75s-73—287
Martin Flores	70s-67n-73s-77—287
Si Woo Kim	71s-71n-74s-71—287
C.T. Pan	70n-70s-68s-79—287
Beau Hossler	71s-69n-69s-79—287
Francesco Molinari	68s-73n-73s-74—288
Tom Lovelady	68n-70s-73s-77—288
Phil Mickelson	70n-68s-70s-74—288
James Hahn	75s-68n-71s-74—288
John Huh	69s-73n-73s-73—288
Brandt Snedeker	72s-71n-74s-71—288
Kyle Stanley	72n-68s-70s-78—289
Patrick Cantlay	69n-73s-72s-75—289
Talor Gooch	71s-68n-70s-80—289
Andrew Putnam	69s-73n-72s-76—290
Bill Haas	69n-73s-73s-75—290
Anirban Lahiri	71n-72s-72s-75—290
Billy Horschel	74n-69s-74s-73—290
Nick Watney	69s-73n-70s-79—291
Danny Lee	72n-68s-70s-79—291
Cameron Davis	72n-70s-69s-80—291
Bud Cauley	71s-72s-71s-77—291
Cameron Tringale	72n-71s-73s-75—291
Keith Mitchell	71n-68s-74s-78—292
Jimmy Walker	70s-72n-73s-77—292
Julian Suri	68s-74n-75s-75—292
Robert Streb	70s-73n-73s-77—293
Ben Silverman	69n-71s-76s-78—294
Lucas Glover	72n-70s-75s-77—294
Hunter Mahan	68s-70n-78s-79—295
Sung Kang	72s-71n-75s-77—295
Sean O'Hair	70s-69n-80s-76—295
Roberto Diaz	68n-73s-76s-79—296
Ted Potter, Jr.	66s-75n-74s-82—297
J.T. Poston	70n-71s-76s-80—297
Nick Taylor	72n-71s-79s-76—298
Grayson Murray	68n-74s-83s-73—298
Camilo Villegas	71n-72s-75s-81—299

Lady Chaps lose to TLU, beat Coastal Bend College

From staff reports

BEEVILLE — The Midland College softball team split on its final day at the Coastal Bend Tournament on Sunday.

The Lady Chaparrals lost to NCAA Division III Texas Lutheran, 8-0, before defeating host Coastal Bend College, 5-2.

In the loss to TLU, former Lady Chap and Greenwood grad Kassie Maddox hit a three-run home run. MC (2-3) was held to two hits.

MC bounced back against Coastal Bend as they had nine hits, while Crystine Kistner got the win by holding Coastal Bend to four hits. For the weekend, MC coach Amanda Evans said Kistner had 50 strikeouts.

"We're still trying to string it together and taking it one game at a game, but it's coming along," Evans said.

TEXAS LUTHERAN 8, MIDLAND COLLEGE 0

Texas Lutheran	005	30	–8	7	0
Midland College	000	00	–0	2	2

Mallin Faycott and Kayla Lockie. Crystine Kistner, Taylor Laing (3) and Shannon Pascua-Stanton. W – Rancroft. L – Kistner. 2B – TLU: Jordan Berry. HR – TLU: Maddox.

Kassie Maddox 3-run home

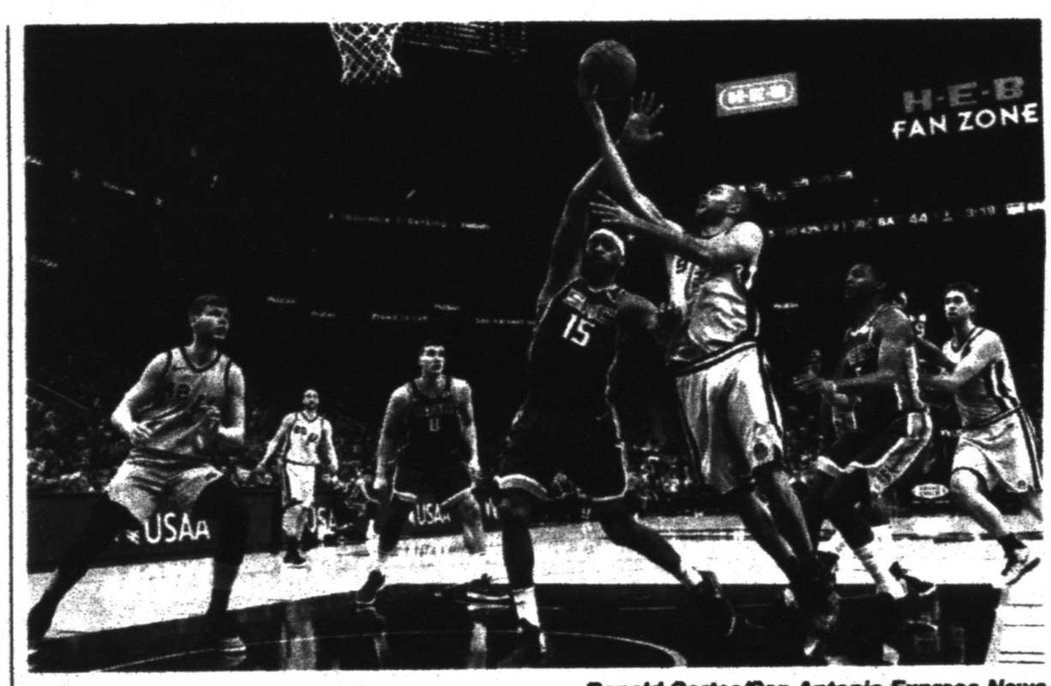
MIDLAND COLLEGE 5, COASTAL BEND COLLEGE 2

Midland College	301	001	0	–5	9 1
Coastal Bend	200	000	0	–2	4 2

Kistner and Mackenzie Hoots. Devon Parsons, Alexis Valdez (1) and Alyssa Galvis. W – Kistner. L – Parsons. 2B – MC: Alexis Sullivan, Rayla Jacobs-Kea.

Records: Midland College 2-3

Next: Midland College at Cowtown Tournament, Friday, Fort Worth.



Ronald Cortes/San Antonio Express-News

Tony Parker, 9, of the San Antonio Spurs drives on Vince Carter, 15, of the Sacramento Kings on Sunday in San Antonio at AT&T Center.

PRO GOLF SCORES

Omega Dubai Desert Classic Leading Scores
Sunday
At Emirates Golf Club
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Purse: $8 million
Yardage: 7,209; Par: 72
Final

Li Haotong, China	69-68-64-69—265
Rory Mcilroy, Northern Ireland	65-64-69-68—266
Tyrrell Hatton, England	64-73-69-68—269
Alexander Levy, France	67-67-65-70—269
Chris Paisley, England	65-68-68-68—271
Byeong Hun An, South Korea	72-67-65-68—272
Alexander Bjork, Sweden	65-69-70-68—272
Pablo Cabrera Bello, Spain	69-68-64-71—272
Tommy Fleetwood, England	69-68-66-69—272
Dylan Frittelli, South Africa	69-67-68-68—272
Chris Hanson, England	67-70-70-65—272
David Lipsky, United States	69-66-67-70—272
Ian Poulter, England	69-70-65-68—272
Richie Ramsay, Scotland	70-69-69-64—272
Jason Scrivener, Australia	70-69-69-64—272
Henrik Stenson, Sweden	70-64-70-68—272
Andy Sullivan, England	67-70-68-67—272
Jeunghun Wang, South Korea	69-68-67-70—272
Miguel Angel Jimenez, Spain	68-68-69-70—273
Martin Kaymer, Germany	68-68-67-70—273
Haydn Porteous, South Africa	69-68-65-71—273
Also	
Pat Perez, United States	69-69-67-70—275
Sergio Garcia, Spain	67-68-69-71—275
Thomas Pieters, Belgium	65-74-70-67—276
Gunn Charoenkul, Thailand	67-70-70-69—276
Shaheen Khan, South Africa	69-65-69-73—276
Ross Fisher, England	69-68-69-71—277
Kiradech Aphibarnrat, Thailand	71-69-70-67—277
David Lingmerth, Sweden	69-71-70-67—277

LPGA Thailand
Sunday
At Siam Country Club
Pattaya Old Course, Pattaya, Thailand
Purse: $1.4 million
Yardage: 6,605; Par 73
(a-amateur)
Final

Brittany Lincicome, $210,000	74-67-66—207
Wei-Ling Hsu, $127,776	73-68-66—209
Amy Yang, $82,199	72-68-70—210
Shanshan Feng, $82,199	70-69-71—210
Danielle Kang, $57,715	70-73-68—211
Molly Shaw, $40,459	72-71-69—212
Bronte Law, $40,459	72-71-69—212
Lee Thompson, $40,459	73-69-71—212
Brooke M. Henderson, $31,191	69-73-72—213
Laetitia Beck, $28,332	71-73-70—214
So Yeon Ryu, $21,636	74-71-70—215
Caroline Masson, $21,636	74-71-70—215
Azahara Munoz, $21,636	74-71-70—215
Lizette Salas, $21,636	73-72-70—215
Hannah Green, $21,636	74-70-71—215
Mariah Stackhouse, $21,636	74-68-73—215
Michelle Wie, $21,636	73-69-73—215
Austin Ernst, $16,686	75-73-69—216
Mo Martin, $16,686	74-73-69—216
Alena Sharp, $16,686	75-71-70—216
Carlota Ciganda, $14,425	71-74-71—216
Yu Liu, $14,425	73-75-69—217
Gaby Lopez, $14,425	75-72-70—217
Eryone Lee, $14,425	73-73-71—217
Paula Reto, $14,425	73-73-71—217
Chella Kiriwandeni, $11,937	77-73-68—218
Pernilla Lindberg, $11,937	75-74-69—218
Mirim Lee, $11,937	76-73-71—218
Charley Hull, $11,937	74-75-69—218
Pajaree Anannarukarn, $11,937	74-69-75—218
Becky Kzire, $11,937	74-76-68—218
Giulia Sergas, $9,628	77-70-70—217
Sandra Changkija, $9,628	76-74-67—217
Morgan Pressel, $9,628	75-75-67—217
Pornanong Phatlum, $9,628	74-75-68—217
Jessy Cunadilla, $9,628	76-70-71—217
Lindy Duncan, $9,628	74-74-71—219
Lindsey Weaver, $9,628	76-73-71—219
Nontaya Nontasin, $9,628	77-72-70—219
Maria Torres, $9,628	70-74-75—219
Sarah Jane Smith, $9,628	69-73-77—219
Emily K. Pedersen, $6,104	75-73-71—220
Madelene Sagstrom, $6,104	73-76-71—220
Hee Young Park, $6,104	75-73-72—220
Tiffany Joh, $6,104	74-74-72—220
Amy Olson, $6,104	73-75-72—220
Kim Kaufman, $6,104	74-73-73—220
Ally McDonald, $6,104	75-71-74—220
Luna Sobron Galmes, $6,104	69-78-79—226
Cheyenne Woods, $4,771	79-73-70—221
Chella Choi, $4,771	77-73-71—221
Agata Ustrups, $4,771	76-74-71—221
Nicole Broch Larsen, $4,771	74-76-71—221
Wichanee Meechai, $4,771	72-75-74—221
Su Oh, $4,127	75-77-70—222
Giulia Molinaro, $4,127	76-74-72—222
Ariya Jutanugarn, $4,127	76-73-73—222
Angela Stanford, $4,127	75-74-73—222
Haru Nomura, $3,708	74-75-74—223
Katherine Kirk, $3,708	70-78-75—223
Sun Young Yoo, $3,323	80-72-72—224
Morgan Pressel, $3,323	77-75-72—224
Caroline Inglis, $3,323	75-77-72—224
Amelia Lewis, $3,323	75-76-73—224
Emma Talley, $3,323	74-77-73—224
Vicky Hurst, $3,323	74-74-76—224
Stacy Lewis, $2,688	76-74-75—225
Jaye Marie Green, $2,598	71-81-73—225
Tiffany Chan, $2,688	77-73-75—225
Cindy LaCrosse, $2,688	75-74-76—225
Maude-Aimee Leblanc, $2,598	74-77-75—225
Megan Khang, $2,711	76-76-74—226
Daniela Darquea, $2,711	76-76-74—226
Karine Icher, $2,711	76-75-75—226
Melanie Do, $2,711	76-74-76—226
Brian Mohn, $2,695	79-72-76—227
Alison Lee, $2,598	74-78-76—228
Marissa Steen, $2,544	76-75-78—229
Jing Yan, $2,544	70-79-80—229

NBA ROUNDUP

Associated Press

SPURS 113, KINGS 98

SAN ANTONIO — Bryn Forbes scored a season-high 23 points, helping San Antonio overcome a sluggish in a game in which Sacramento coach Dave Joerger left in the opening minutes after a dizzy spell.

LaMarcus Aldridge and Manu Ginobili each added 15 points in San Antonio's 13th straight win over Sacramento. Dejounte Murray had 14 points and 10 assists, and Pau Gasol had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Joerger exited two minutes into the game after slapping his hands together after a non-call, taking two steps toward midcourt and then turning toward his bench and dropping to one knee. He braced himself with one hand on the court and another on a staff member before rising with the help of another staff member. He was taken to the locker room and was examined by a Spurs team doctor. A San Antonio official said Joerger was experiencing lightheadedness and was being kept in the locker room for precautionary reasons.

De'Aaron Fox led Sacramento with 26 points.

ROCKETS 113, SUNS 102

HOUSTON — James Harden had 27 points and 10 rebounds to lead Houston.

Harden fell two assists shy of his third triple-double of the season. The Rockets beat Phoenix for the 14th time in their past 16 meetings, including seven straight.

Devin Booker had 31 points and 10 assists for Phoenix, shooting 5 for 9 from beyond the arc. He scored 21 points in the second half to keep the Suns close. T.J. Warren added 24 points.

THUNDER 125, 76ERS 112

OKLAHOMA CITY — Russell Westbrook scored 37 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Philadelphia 76ers 122-112 on Sunday night for their eighth straight victory.

Westbrook made just 6 of 20 shots in the first half, when he was knocked to the ground trying to take a charge as Joel Embiid threw down a dunk over him. He was 8 of 13 in the second half and also had 14 assists and nine rebounds.

Paul George scored 31 points, and Steven Adams added 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Thunder. Embiid had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Ben Simmons added 22 points for the 76ers.

The Thunder said guard Andre Roberson is expected to miss the rest of the season after having surgery on a ruptured left patella tendon. Roberson, who was a second-team All-Defense selection last season, was injured when his knee buckled and he fell Saturday at Detroit.

CAVALIERS 121, PISTONS 104

CLEVELAND — LeBron James had 25 points, 14 assists and narrowly missed his second straight triple-double, and Cleveland sent Detroit to its eighth straight loss.

Cleveland has won consecutive games for the first time since a five-game winning streak Dec. 9-17.

James was 8 of 15 from the field, 8 of 9 from the foul line and had eight rebounds. Kevin Love had 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Tobias Harris and Anthony Tolliver each scored 20 points for the Pistons.

RAPTORS 123, LAKERS 111

TORONTO — Fred VanVleet scored a career-high 25 points, DeMar DeRozan had 19 and Toronto snapped Los Angeles' winning streak at four games.

Kyle Lowry had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Jonas Valanciunas added 13 points and 10 rebounds to help the Raptors win their seventh straight over the Lakers.

The victory guarantees the Raptors will have the second-best record in the Eastern Conference through Feb. 4, meaning Dwane Casey will coach Team LeBron in the All-Star Game. Boston's Brad Stevens, whose Celtics lead the Eastern Conference, is ineligible after coaching last year's game.

Julius Randle had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Jordan Clarkson also scored 17 points for the Lakers.

CLIPPERS 112, PELICANS 103

NEW ORLEANS — Blake Griffin had 27 points and 12 rebounds, and made a crushing 3-pointer with 43 seconds left, leading Los Angeles past New Orleans in the Pelicans' first game since a season-ending injury to All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins.

Lou Williams added 22 points, and DeAndre Jordan had 12 points and 19 rebounds for the Clippers.

Anthony Davis had 25 points and 17 rebounds for the Pelicans. They'd won seven of eight coming in, but were playing for the first time all season without Cousins, who averaged 25.2 points and 13.9 rebounds before tearing his Achilles tendon in the final seconds of a victory over Houston on Friday night.

BUCKS 116, BULLS 96

CHICAGO — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points, nine rebounds and eight assists to help Milwaukee improve to 3-0 since interim coach Joe Prunty replaced the fired Jason Kidd.

Khris Middleton added 20 points and seven rebounds.

Denzel Valentine scored 18 points for the Bulls.

NHL

From 1C

of Wayne Gretzky's 18 appearances in the midseason showcase that shifts to San Jose, California, next season.

With the Lightning's Jon Cooper coaching the Atlantic Division, and the team with the NHL's best record represented by a league-high four players, the sell-out crowd of 19,092 roared its approval when the Atlantic-Metropolitan semifinal began with goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy, plus forwards Nikita Kucherov, Brayden Point and Steven Stamkos on the ice at the same time.

Kucherov's hat trick in the 7-4 semifinal victory was the first for an All-Star game since the NHL adopted the three-match, three-on-three tournament format in 2016.

Point, Toronto's Auston Matthews and Buffalo's Jack Eichel also scored for the Atlantic, which rallied from a 3-1 deficit after Vasilevskiy allowed early goals to Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby, Philadelphia's Claude Giroux and Washington's Alex Ovechkin.

Boeser snapped a 2-2 tie, James Neal of the Western Conference-leading Vegas Golden Knights scored two goals, and Edmonton's Connor McDavid had four assists in the Pacific's semifinal win over the Central Division.

Harmon still speaking up, playing big for Patriots

By Kyle Hightower
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Duron Harmon thought it was time to speak up.

It was about a half-hour after the Patriots' 33-30 loss to the Carolina Panthers on Oct. 1. As his teammates walked around in a daze following their second loss in four games, Harmon didn't hold back when asked what was wrong with a defense that already had given up 30 or more points three times.

"Obviously, what we're doing is not good enough, so we need to go take a look in the mirror and just look and realize: Are we doing enough to win?" he said that night.

Both the words and the sentiment had a familiar ring to them.

That's because it was Harmon who issued a similar challenge to his team during halftime of last year's Super Bowl against Atlanta. It's a pep talk his teammates credited with helping them complete their 25-point comeback.

Since signing a four-year, $17 million contract this past offseason, the defensive captain has become an even more vocal presence in the Patriots' locker room and was one of their most consistent players down the stretch.

He led the team with four interceptions, including one in the end zone in the waning seconds of New England's 27-24 win at Pittsburgh that would help it secure home-field advantage in the postseason.

The 27-year-old says he still feels like a "young player" but that he has felt more at ease speaking his mind as he heads to his third Super Bowl, where the Patriots will face the Philadelphia Eagles next Sunday.

Part of the reason is because he thinks he's playing alongside a defensive unit that is just as tough mentally as the one that showed up when it had to against Atlanta. He also doesn't have to worry about hurting anyone's feelings in a locker room where the demand for excellence is so high.

"Just a group of fighters," Harmon said. "I mean you just look at the way the year progressed — started the year not the way we wanted to, came out and lost the opener, got to 2-2, but nobody in here really listened to the noise. We ignored it. We did everything we can to get better and try to progress throughout the year and that's the reason why we're here right now, just because we continued to fight."

Patriots safety Devin McCourty said Harmon's preparation is noticeable to his teammates and gives him credibility when he chooses to speak out. It also has allowed the coaching staff to trust him late in games.

"The situation doesn't affect him. The pressure doesn't bother him," McCourty said. "Since he was a young guy in here, if he was thrown in there at the end of the game he was ready to go, and I thought he's always done a good job of taking advantage of opportunities."

It's also kept Harmon on the field.

He appeared in all 16 regular-season games for the fourth straight season. Though often used in nickel situations as the third safety, including in the playoffs, Harmon has been on the field for 60 percent or more of the Patriots' defensive snaps 11 times this season.

Having him out there is never a bad thing, coach Bill Belichick said.

"Whether he's 60 percent or 80 percent, whatever it is, 70 percent, whatever it ends up being — we want him on the field. He does a good job for us," Belichick said.

Harmon said playing in place that puts such a premium on accountability is what drew him in from the beginning.

"If you love winning it's not hard," he said. "I mean this is what this place is about — winning. Everything we do, everything we sacrifice for is for to win. Coming here as a young guy five years ago, I just see how competitive this place was and I just wanted to be a part of it so I did everything in my power to continue to get better and try to make sure that at the end of training camp I'm always on this roster."



AP file photo

New England Patriots strong safety Duron Harmon, right, celebrates his interception in the end zone of a pass from Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger during the second half of an NFL game Dec. 17 in Pittsburgh. Since signing a four-year, $17 million contract this past offseason, Harmon has become a more vocal presence in the Patriots' locker room and was one of its most consistent players down the stretch.

Strong faith binds Eagles, attracts new fans

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Seventy-two-year-old Susan Collesidis was never a football fan until she heard Carson Wentz talk about his faith.

Then she was hooked on the Philadelphia Eagles.

When Wentz found out his newest fan was fighting an advanced stage of cancer, he sent her an encouraging message with inspirational Bible verses.

"How much joy I get from watching him and his team play supernatural football every week," she said after reading it.

Two weeks later, Collesidis lost her battle with cancer the night before Thanksgiving.

"The message meant so much to Susan because she admired Carson as a person and believer more than a football player," son-in-law Doug Horton said. "He's the reason she started caring about sports and she couldn't wait to watch the Eagles every week."

Wentz isn't playing in the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots because he tore his ACL in Week 14. But backup quarterback Nick Foles also is a "brother in Christ" and one of the leaders in a locker room filled with guys who have formed a strong bond because of their faith.

"It truly is a brotherhood," Pro Bowl tight end Zach Ertz said. "Those guys are holding me accountable. Off the field, I'm holding them accountable. We truly care about each other, we truly care about the growth that each individual has in the word, as believers, as well as friends and family. There are a lot of guys who are truly trying to boost me up and keep me focused on the main thing, which is obviously the word. ..."

Christian players openly expressing their faith is nothing new in the NFL: Reggie White, Kurt Warner, Tim Tebow, Ray Lewis and Russell Wilson among many others.

But these Eagles are an unusually close-knit group.

"There is a stronger connection here," said defensive end Steven Means, who played for three other teams. "It's another level because we push each other in certain areas that we are flawed at and open ourselves up to each other. We text each other throughout the day making sure that everybody is on the right path and doing the right thing."

Torrey Smith played with Lewis on the Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens in 2012.

They had a solid core of Christian players who used their faith for inspiration during their journey. Smith also spent two years in San Francisco before the wide receiver came to Philadelphia this season. He said it's different here.

"I've been lucky to be part of three organizations that do have a very strong Christian presence," Smith said. "The difference here is a lot of younger guys lead."

It starts with Wentz, the face of the franchise.

Wentz went on a mission trip to Haiti last May with former teammate Jordan Matthews and a group led by Kyle Horner, lead pastor of The Connect Church.

He delivered a sermon a month later at a church back home in North Dakota and launched his Audience of One Foundation in July. Wentz and several teammates even created a devotional video series for the Bible app.

Four days before the season opener, Wentz and teammates Trey Burton and Stefen Wisniewski spoke at a faith event in front of a crowd of 2,000 people who sat in the rain for a couple hours to hear their favorite players share their testimony.

But before he had an MVP-caliber season and led the Eagles from worst to first, Wentz received plenty of criticism from some media and fans because he openly talked about his faith on social media .

He wasn't deterred.

"Jesus was persecuted everywhere he went," Wentz said. "So if Jesus, who is our ultimate example, endured that, then I can endure a couple tweets. I can endure a little riff-raff here and there."

A large group of players meet for Bible study on Thursdays and hold a study for couples on Mondays. They get together for prayer and devotionals the night before games. They've even gathered for baptisms in some unusual places.

In October 2016, Burton and pastor Ted Winsley baptized six players in a cold tub at the team's practice facility.

"It was crazy," said Winsley, the team's longtime chaplain. "The guys were just hungry, wanting their lives changed."

Before a Thursday night game at Carolina last October, second-year pro Marcus Johnson was baptized in a hotel pool.

"Since I've come to Philly, I've grown in my faith so much," Johnson said. "As a rookie last year coming in, you always hear about the locker room and how dysfunctional it can be and people playing for money and this and that, but when I got here, everyone was so supportive and I knew it was something special."

Having strong faith doesn't make players immune to adversity, but it helps them deal with it. The Eagles (15-3) have overcome numerous injuries to important players on their way to winning the NFC championship.

Nine-time Pro Bowl left tackle Jason Peters, running back/return specialist Darren Sproles, special-teams captain Chris Maragos and kicker Caleb Sturgis suffered season-ending injuries along with Wentz and Jordan Hicks, the playmaking linebacker and quarterback on defense.

Instead of anger and resentment, they've leaned on their faith to maintain a positive attitude.

"Character is always revealed in times of testing," said Horner, who pastors several players. "For these men, Christ is not a crutch to lean upon, he is the foundation which their life is built upon. For them, faith is not an intellectual acknowledgement of truth, but a day-by-day expression of their love for God. This is where it all starts."

AFC

From 1C

"When it's clutch time, crunch time, that's what he does. We needed a play, and Von went and did what he does."

The AFC overcame a 17-point halftime deficit and four turnovers to win the annual all-star game.

Heavy downpours were partly to blame for the sloppiness.

The rain prompted some fans to leave Camping World Stadium and others to break out ponchos. It also caused players on both sidelines to scramble to protect cellphones.

Jordan, New Orleans running back Mark Ingram and others had their phones in hand during introductions, and dozens more could be seen using them on the sidelines early in the game.

They shoved them in plastic bags as the rain started.

Each of the AFC quarterbacks — Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger, Kansas City's Alex Smith and Carr — threw interceptions. And Kansas City returner Tyreek Hill muffed a punt.

Carr made up for his mistake by completing a 12-yard pass to Miami's Jarvis Landry on a fourth-and-7 play in the waning minutes. He found Walker down the middle three plays later.

Walker was voted the offensive MVP, and Miller was the defensive MVP. Both got luxury cars to go along with trophies.

"He's a Super Bowl MVP and now a Pro Bowl MVP as well," Talib said of Miller. "Another accolade for him. The more accolades you get, the more people expect from you."

The NFC looked like it would coast to a victory early as two Minnesota Vikings made big plays a week earlier than they wanted (Super Bowl) and a week later than they needed (NFC championship game).

Adam Thielen had a touchdown reception on the opening drive, and Smith returned an interception 79 yards for a score as the NFC opened up a 20-3 lead at halftime.

But the NFC failed to hold onto the lead. Goff threw incomplete on two fourth-down passes late as Saints coach Sean Payton tried to keep drives alive and milk the clock.

That was the opening Carr, Walker and Miller needed.

"I think it makes it more exciting for the fans for us to put on a show like that and go down to the last minute and win the game," said Walker, who also caught a 4-yard TD pass from Smith in the third.

AFC 24, NFC 23

NFC	7	13	0	3—23
AFC	3	0	14	7—24

First Quarter
NFC—Thielen 8 pass from Brees (Gano kick), 7:56.
AFC—FG Boswell 41, :43.
Second Quarter
NFC—FG Gano 43, 12:14.
NFC—H.Smith 79 interception return (Gano kick), 7:07.
NFC—FG Gano 40, :04.
Third Quarter
AFC—Walker 4 pass from A.Smith (Boswell kick), 11:25.
AFC—McCoy 2 run (Boswell kick), 5:41.
Fourth Quarter
NFC—FG Gano 38, 14:13.
AFC—Walker 18 pass from D.Carr (Boswell kick), 1:39.
A—NA.

	NFC	AFC
First downs	20	16
Total Net Yards	251	313
Rushes-yards	19-60	12-17
Passing	191	296
Comp-Att-Int	26-41-1	25-39-3
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-30	0-0
Punts	1-60	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	6-30	1-5
Time of Possession	29:04	30:16

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—NFC, Ingram 9-21, Kamara 4-13, Juszczyk 4-12, Gurley 0-9, Wilson 1-5. AFC, McCoy 3-7, Hunt 4-4, Mix 2-4, Bell 2-3, Carr 1-(minus 1).
PASSING—NFC, Goff 10-19-0-86, Wilson 9-14-1-93, Brees 7-9-0-65. AFC, A.Smith 7-10-1-131, D.Carr 11-15-1-115, Roethlisberger 7-13-1-50, A.Brown 0-1-0-0.
RECEIVING—NFC, Rudolph 7-70, Kamara 4-38, Baldwin 3-35, Thielen 3-25, Juszczyk 1-20, Wilson 2-16, Gurley 2-13, Thomas 1-6, Ingram 3-0. AFC, Hilton 4-69, Landry 5-78, Walker 4-29, Bell 3-28, Allen 2-18, Hill 1-18, Doyle 2-17, Hunt 3-6, A.Brown 1-3.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Patriots

From 1C

this point," right tackle Lane Johnson said. "Just because you're in a big stage doesn't mean you have to do anything out of the ordinary to make bigger plays. Don't make the moment bigger than what it is."

The Patriots may need no assistance but that hasn't stopped teams from helping them out like Jacksonville did last week with a delay penalty coming out of a timeout and a rushed punt that essentially gave Brady an extra timeout before halftime.

"I think why the Patriots are so good is because they capitalize off people making those mistakes," Johnson said. "They don't make mistakes, hardly. They're well-coached. You don't necessarily have to be the most talented team. You saw last year they weren't the most talented team. Yet, they're the best team because they function together well and they're coached well."

New England safety Duron Harmon said the Patriots never panic like so many other teams because they rehearse adversity so well and so often in practice.

"We go over every type of situation that you can think of," Harmon said.

Theismann said Belichick is simply the best at teaching "if somebody's going to beat us, they're going to have to beat us; we're not going to beat ourselves."

"What New England does is New England preaches discipline and understanding your job," Theismann said, singling out lieutenants Josh McDaniels and Matt Patricia in addition to Belichick, who, along with his personnel assistants, identifies coachable players who fit in.

"Think about it: You never see Bill Belichick run up the sideline and call a timeout because the time clock's running out," Theismann said. "You don't see Bill's players making those kids of errors. I mean, I was very fortunate to play for Joe Gibbs and Joe was the same type of game manager, where he was aware and he made me aware of all the possible circumstances and situations that you deal with.

"For example, when you're coming out of your own end zone, if you're backed up inside your own 3-yard line, it's a great time to run a hard count because you're only going to get a yard and a-half penalty. Instead of first-and-10, it's going to be first-and-11. But you do have the possibility of making it first-and-5.

"There is a game within the game that the Patriots play better than anybody."

They have a fistful of rings as a result.

Chip Ganassi earns 200th victory with Rolex class win

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — In a 24-hour race of attrition, it was only fitting for the most seasoned sports car teams to control the podium at Daytona International Speedway.

Action Express Racing won its third Rolex 24 at Daytona overall title, and Chip Ganassi Racing celebrated the organization's 200th victory with a win in the GT Le Mans class.

Both two-car teams finished first and second in their respective classes.

The Action Express team of Filipe Albuquerque, Joao Barbosa and Christian Fittipaldi drove Cadillac to the overall victory Sunday, and it's other car finished second. It's the second consecutive Rolex overall victory for Cadillac but came from the team that finished second last year.

Ganassi's two Ford entries dominated the GT Le Mans class and defended last year's victory.

The team of Ryan Briscoe, Richard Westbrook and Scott Dixon won and defeated its sister car, which was the defending class champion. The car of Joey Hand, Dirk Mueller and Sebastien Bourdais finished second.

Ganassi, the grand marshal of this year's race, now has eight wins in 15 Rolex appearances. His teams won six overall titles and now have two class victories. He's the only team owner in history to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans, Indianapolis 500, Daytona 500, Brickyard 400, Rolex and 12 Hours of Sebring.

"It was one of the most nerve-wracking races. It's your race to lose," Ganassi said. "It's one thing not to win the race, it's another thing to lose a race. It was our race to lose and those are the worst races."

Ganassi didn't want to focus on the 200th victory and instead highlighted the effort his team put forth at Daytona.

"We just focus on trying to do the best we can today," he said. "We'll have plenty of time to talk about the (rest)."

In the GT Daytona class, GRT Grasser Racing Team won in a Lamborghini — the first for the manufacturer at the Rolex.

The race was clean and fast, except for the traditional attrition of an endurance race. With only four cautions, the event set a record at 808 laps that bettered the mark of 762 laps sent in 1992. The race also set a record with 2,876.48 miles, breaking the mark of 2,760.960 miles in 1982.

Two-time world champion Fernando Alonso made his debut in a major sports car competition but was saddled by a myriad mechanical problems with his United Autosports entry. The Spaniard's car finished 13th in class and 38th overall, but he raved about his time in the endurance race and said he was leaning "60/40" toward adding the 24 Hours of Le Mans to this year's schedule.

"I have a positive feeling," said Alonso, who drove four stints — the length of almost three F1 races. "We had so many issues with the reliability but nevertheless I am happy, it was very good fun."

Roger Penske's return to sports car competition was impressive until the typical attrition of the twice-round-the-clock race took its toll on his two Acura entries. Although Penske remained atop the team pit stand for almost the entire 24 hours, one of his cars was knocked out of contention for the victory when Helio Castroneves made contact with Felipe Nasr as Nasr fought to stay on the lead lap. An alternator issue put the other car in the garage.

The Penske team of Castroneves, Graham Rahal and Ricky Taylor, who moved to Team Penske this year after winning the Rolex and IMSA championship last year driving for his father's team, finished ninth overall. The entry of Dane Cameron, Juan Pablo Montoya and Simon Pagenaud finished 10th.

"The race has been amazing," Penske said. "This is my fishing trip and my golf game."

Scott Pruett completed the final race of his 50-year career. A five-time Rolex overall winner, Pruett said he'd retire after this race. He carried his weight with his Lexus team behind the wheel, but the car finished ninth in the GTD class.

"It's been business as usual," Pruett said of his final race before adding his trademark line: "I've got to say 'Hi' to my family at home — even though most of them are here."

Pruett will move into an ambassador role for Lexus, but even at 58 years old, said he'll be ready to jump in a car if needed this season.

Wayne Taylor Racing had an unusual number of tire problems and retired right after daybreak. Although Continental Tire said teams with issues were being too aggressive and not following parameters set by the manufacturer, a company representative later said only two team issues came from punctured tires. The others have to be addressed, Continental said.

"Based on the issues we had throughout the race and multiple attempts to fix it without a satisfactory result has forced us to withdrawal the car from the race for the safety of our drivers," team manager Travis Houge said of the team's inability to defend last year's overall victory.

With the Taylor entry out of the race and the Penske's not in contention for the victory, Action Express just needed to make it to the finish and hold off its sister car for the victory. The team of Nasr, Eric Curran, Mike Conway and Stuart Middleton finished second as the team and Cadillac went 1-2 overall.

For the winners, Barbosa and Fittipaldi now have three Rolex watches for overall victories while Albuquerque earned his first. Albuquerque and Barbosa also have class victories on their racing resumes. Their No. 5 Mustang Sampling Cadillac led almost the final 10 hours of the race. Fittipaldi is being replaced by Albuquerque as the full-time driver and will only do the four endurance races on the schedule this year.

For the Ganassi entries, it was last year's winning car that dominated until the final driver change of the race. The No. 67 car was slightly quicker on pit road and it put Briscoe out ahead of Hand. Briscoe and Westbrook won the Rolex for the first times in their careers, but it is the third watch for Dixon. It was fitting that Dixon was part of the team's 200th victory — he's the longest tenured driver in Ganassi history.

IMSA-Rolex 24 Daytona Results
Sunday
At Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Lap length: 3.56 miles
(x-GT Le Mans class winner; z-GT Daytona class winner)
(Starting position in parentheses)

1. (3) Filipe Albuquerque, Joao Barbosa, Christian Fittipaldi, Cadillac DPi, 808 laps, 119.726 mph
2. (7) Felipe Nasr, Eric Curran, Mike Conway, Stuart Middleton, Cadillac DPi, 808, 119.826
3. (8) Colin Braun, Romain Dumas, Loic Duval, Jonathan Bennett, ORECA LMP2, 808, 119.589
4. (15) Bruno Senna, Will Owen, Hugo de Sadeleer, Paul Di Resta, Ligier LMP2, 804, 119.133
5. (11) Alex Brundle, Ferdinand Habsburg-Lothringen, Antonio Felix da Costa, Ho-Pin Tung, ORECA LMP2, 804, 119.113
6. (12) Simon Trummer, Robert Alon, Devlin DeFrancesco, Austin Cindric, Oreca LMP2, 798, 118.226
7. (14) Stephen Simpson, Mikhail Goikhberg, Gustavo Menezes, Chris Miller, Oreca LMP2, 798, 118.225
8. (4) Patricio O'Ward, Kyle Masson, Joel Miller, James French, ORECA LMP2, 796, 117.941
9. (2) Helio Castroneves, Ricky Taylor, Graham Rahal, Acura DPi, 793, 117.438
10. (10) Dane Cameron, Juan Pablo Montoya, Simon Pagenaud, Acura DPi, 793, 117.430
11. x-(22) Richard Westbrook, Scott Dixon, Ryan Briscoe, Ford GT, 783, 115.917
12. (19) Joey Hand, Dirk Mueller, Sebastien Bourdais, Ford GT, 783, 115.902
13. (18) Jan Magnussen, Antonio Garcia, Mike Rockenfeller, Chevrolet Corvette C7.R, 781, 115.642
14. (23) Oliver Gavin, Tommy Milner, Marcel Fassler, Chevrolet Corvette C7.R, 780, 115.563
15. (6) Robin Frijns, Daniel Juncadella, Lance Stroll, Felix Rosenqvist, ORECA LMP2, 777, 115.083
16. (24) Toni Vilander, Alessandro Pier Guidi, James Calado, David Rigon, Ferrari 488 GTE, 774, 114.589
17. (25) Laurens Vanthoor, Earl Bamber, Giammaria Bruni, Porsche 911 RSR, 774, 114.570
18. (28) John Edwards, Nicky Catsburg, Augusto Farfus, Jesse Krohn, BMW M8 GTLM, 773, 114.504
19. (66) Gustavo Yacaman, Roberto Gonzalez, Nicholas Boulle, Sebastian Saavedra, Ligier LMP2, 771, 114.182
20. (21) Patrick Pilet, Nick Tandy, Frederic Makowiecki, Porsche 911 RSR, 753, 111.470
21. z-(30) Mirko Bortolotti, Franck Perera, Rik Breukers, Rolf Ineichen, Lamborghini Huracan GT3, 752, 111.290
22. (34) Alvaro Parente, Trent Hindman, AJ Allmendinger, Katherine Legge, Acura NSX GT3, 751, 111.266
23. (43) Bryce Miller, Bryan Sellers, Madison Snow, Andrew Carbonell, Lamborghini Huracan GT3, 751, 111.241
24. (40) Ben Keating, Jeroen Bleekemolen, Adam Christodoulou, Luca Stolz, Mercedes-AMG GT3, 751, 111.238
25. (41) Sean Bird, Bill Sweedler, Townsend Bell, Frankie Montecalvo, Ferrari 488 GT3, 751, 111.161
26. (38) Andy Lally, Andrew Davis, Markus Winkelhock, John Potter, Audi R8 LMS GT3, 750, 111.099
27. (36) Sheldon van der Linde, Kelvin van der Linde, Jeffrey Schmidt, Christopher Mies, Audi R8 LMS GT3, 749, 110.850
28. (45) Kenny Habul, Thomas Jaeger, Mario Engel, Mikael Grenier, Mercedes-AMG GT3, 745, 110.343
29. (31) Jack Hawksworth, David Heinemeier Hansson, Scott Pruett, Dominik Farnbacher, Lexus RCF GT3, 744, 110.147
30. (32) Alessandro Balzan, Gunnar Jeannette, Jeff Segal, Cooper MacNeil, Ferrari 488 GT3, 744, 110.115
31. (44) Corne Ledogar, Justin Marks, Lawson Aschenbach, Mario Farnbacher, Acura NSX GT3, 741, 109.787
32. (48) Kenton Koch, Robby Foley, Loris Spinelli, JC Perez, Mercedes-AMG GT3, 741, 109.673
33. (46) Christopher Lenz, Louis Machiels, Max van Splunteren, Luis Perez Companc, Christian Engelhart, Lamborghini Huracan GT3, 739, 109.366
34. (37) Cameron Lawrence, Jens Klingmann, Martin Tomczyk, Mark Kvamme, Don Yount, BMW M6 GT3, 733, 108.502
35. (25) Alexander Sims, Connor De Phillippi, Bill Auberlen, Philipp Eng, BMW M8 GTLM, 731, 108.286
36. (33) Dominik Baumann, Kyle Marcelli, Philipp Frommenwiler, Bruno Junqueira, Lexus RCF GT3, 719, 106.510
37. (42) Ryan Eversley, Sean Rayhall, John Falb, Chad Gilsinger, Acura NSX GT3, 719, 106.409
38. (13) Fernando Alonso, Phil Hanson, Lando Norris, Ligier LMP2, 718, 106.347
39. (29) Miguel Molina, Ricardo Perez de Lara, Martin Fuentes, Santiago Creel, Matt Griffin, Ferrari 488 GT3, 715, 105.926
40. (48) Timothy Pappas, Patrick Lindsey, Jorg Bergmeister, Norbert Siedler, Porsche 911 GT3 R, 675, 100.006
41. (39) Robert Renauer, Mathieu Jaminet, Patrick Long, Christina Nielsen, Porsche 911 GT3 R, 666, 98.922
42. (17) Alex Popow, Tomy Drissi, Brendan Gaughan, Marc Drumwright, Eric Lux, Multimatic/Riley LMP2, 642, 95.074
43. (28) Sven Muller, Matteo Cairoli, Steve Smith, Randy Walls, Harald Proczyk, Porsche 911 GT3 R, 637, 104.582
44. (27) Daniel Serra, Paul Dalla Lana, Pedro Lamy, Matthias Lauda, Ferrari 488 GT3, 571, 110.393
45. (1) Renger Van Der Zande, Ryan Hunter-Reay, Jordan Taylor, Cadillac DPi, 555, 118.588
46. (9) Jonathan Bomarito, Harry Tincknell, Spencer Pigot, Mazda DPi, 541, 111.919
47. (16) Oliver Jarvis, Tristan Nunez, Rene Rast, Mazda DPi, 530, 104.618
48. (26) Nicolas Lapierre, Johannes van Overbeek, Pipo Derani, Nissan DPi, 438, 119.922
49. (20) Scott Sharp, Ryan Dalziel, Olivier Pla, Nissan DPi, 338, 118.633
50. (5) Tristan Vautier, Eddie Cheever III, Matthew McMurry, Cadillac DPi, 291, 119.542

RACE STATISTICS
Time of race: 24:01:32.128
Margin of victory: 70.544 seconds
Race Distance: 2,876.480 miles

OPEN

From 1C

the referee exercised his discretion and called for the roof to be closed," Tennis Australia said in a statement. "At no other time during the event this year has the WBGT reading reached the threshold."

Federer took instant advantage of the air-conditioned venue, breaking Cilic's serve in the first and third games.

"Mentally was tough. Also was difficult with conditions. Throughout the tournament I played all my matches outdoors, also preparing a hot day," Cilic said. "Then first match for the final to play with the roof closed, it's difficult."

It was clear early on that the crowd would be heavily pro-Federer. The arena was filled with red and white, with Federer supporters wearing Swiss flags on their shirts, hats and faces and one waving a sign that read: "The Big Two-Oh. Go Roger!"

After smashing an overhead into the base of the net and shanking a forehand long, Cilic went to his equipment bag for a new racket after just 12 points. Federer only conceded two points on his serve in the 24-minute opening set.

But Cilic rallied, getting his big forehand working and, after missing a set point on Federer's serve in the 10th game, leveled the match in the tiebreaker. That was the first set Federer had dropped in the tournament.

Federer easily won the third set and was up a break in the fourth but the momentum swung again, with Cilic going on a roll to level the match. The sixth-seeded Cilic had two chances to break Federer's serve in the first game of the fifth set, but wasted them both with two unforced errors. He then double-faulted twice in the second game to drop his own serve, giving Federer the decisive lead in the set.

Federer is now 9-1 against 2014 U.S. Open champion Cilic, including last year's Wimbledon final.

After serving out at love, his celebration was delayed slightly by an unsuccessful challenge from Cilic on match point. It was a similar end to his five-set win over Nadal here last year. And, just like 12 months ago, he held it together until the victory ceremony, when the tears flowed.

Australian Open Results
MELBOURNE — Results Sunday from the Australian Open at Melbourne Park (seedings in parentheses):

Men's Singles
Final
Roger Federer (2), Switzerland, def. Marin Cilic (6), Croatia, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1

Mixed Doubles
Final
Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada and Mate Pavic, Croatia, def. Rohan Bopanna, India and Timea Babos, Hungary, 2-6, 6-4, 11-9

Braun willing to try 1B as Brewers shift focus to win in '18

By Andrew Wagner
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Ryan Braun willing to do whatever it takes to help the Milwaukee Brewers get back to the playoffs, even if it means learning a new position after 11 years in the big leagues.

The six-time All-Star outfielder will get work at first base during spring training as the Brewers try to ease an outfield logjam after the team traded for Christian Yelich from the Miami Marlins and signed free agent Lorenzo Cain.

"We'll communicate about it and I'm sure we'll have plenty of dialogue as we go, see how things are going, see how our roster develops," Braun said Sunday at the team's annual winter fan festival in downtown Milwaukee. "But I'll do the best I can at wherever they want me to play."

The bold moves for Yelich and Cain punctuated what had been a relatively quiet offseason. After missing the playoffs by one game in 2017, Milwaukee has sped up the timeline to challenge the Chicago Cubs in the NL Central.

The plan traces back to a trip that general manager David Stearns took to California in October to talk to principal owner Mark Attanasio about the direction forward for the club.

"We decided winning in 2018 was as important as to win in 2020," Attanasio said.

The moves also left a crowded outfield situation and the possibility of more shuffling. Power-hitting right fielder Domingo Santana might make for an attractive trade chip if the Brewers want to add another starter.

"We could sign a big pitcher," Attanasio said. "If the right situation comes along, we can take advantage of that."

Regardless of what happens, players are energized just a few weeks before spring training begins.

"I'm excited for the fresh start and to just be a part of this winning organization that is trending upward," Yelich said.

His arrival opened up questions especially about left field, where Braun has played most of his major league career. Yelich won a Gold Glove in left with the Marlins, and the potential to play Braun at first at times could also ease the outfield situation.

A shortstop at the University of Miami, Braun moved to third base after the Brewers selected him fifth overall in the 2005 draft. He was still a third baseman when he arrived in the majors in 2007 but committed a league-leading 26 errors as a rookie, most of them coming on errant throws, and moved to left the next season.

A calf injury limited Braun to 140 games last season and he batted only .268 with 17 home runs and 52 RBIs, down from .306 with 30 homers and 91 RBIs the previous year before.

THE SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYMENT

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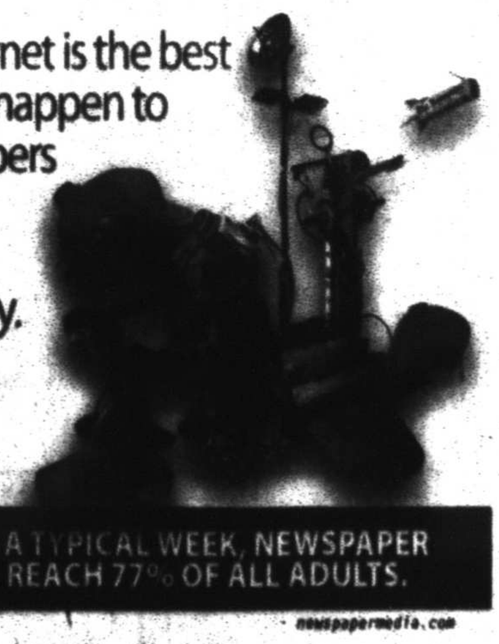
REAGENT CHEMICAL & RESEARCH - NOW HIRING *PROFESSIONAL CDL-HAZMAT DRIVER W/ TANKER ENDOSEMENT *2 Yrs CDL Driving Experience w/1 Yr Tanker Experience* Good Driving Record Required* Must Be Over 23 Yrs Old* MUST PASS BACKGROUND CHECK Great Benefit package offered. Apply Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm @ 2833 I-20, South Service Rd, Stanton TX or Call 432-458-3446

Licensed Electrician & Apprentice
Licensed Electrician & Apprentice needed to work West Texas area. 40 -50 hrs/wk guaranteed. Please apply at tripleselectric44@gmail.com or fax resume 575-397-0358

Mudloggers/Field Geologists
Advance Consultants Corp. is now hiring Experienced Mudloggers/ Field Geologists. Geology Degree preferred. Email resumes to advance@advancelogging.com

MARTIN COUNTY HOSPITAL
CFO
Dietary Manager
Laboratory Manager
Housekeeping
Biller
Apply at www.martincountyhospital.org
EEOC Employer

Contractors w/ Plumbing Construction Exp.
Power Plumbing, Inc. is searching for contractors with plumbing construction experience. All candidates must live locally and be registered as a Section 3 resident or be Section 3 owned business. Power Plumbing acknowledges that the Construction of this project is subject to the Section 3 plan of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Please call: Power Plumbing, Inc. Attn: Lisa S. 281-213-6919



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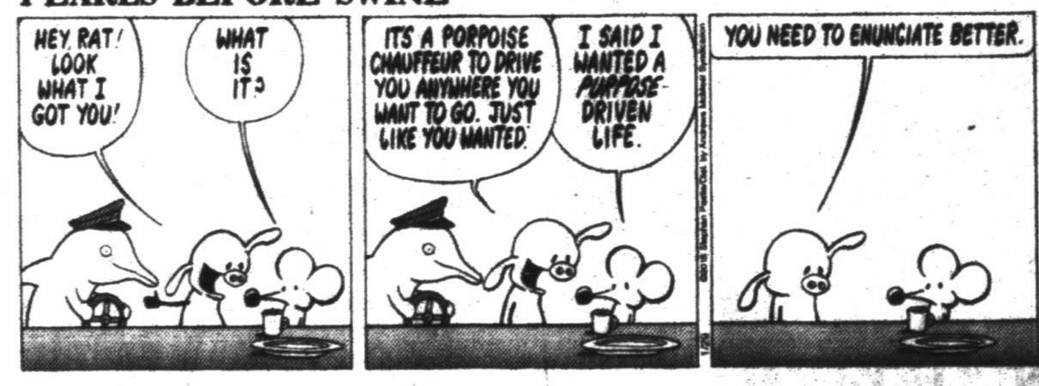
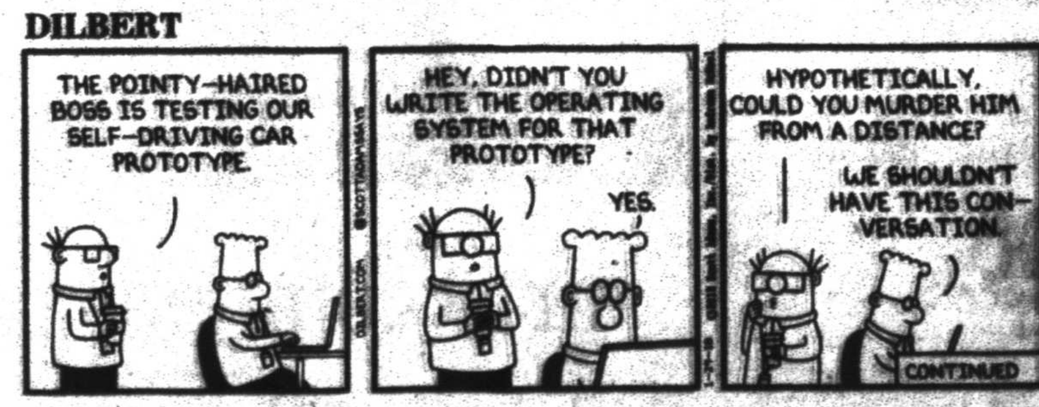


WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



LUANN



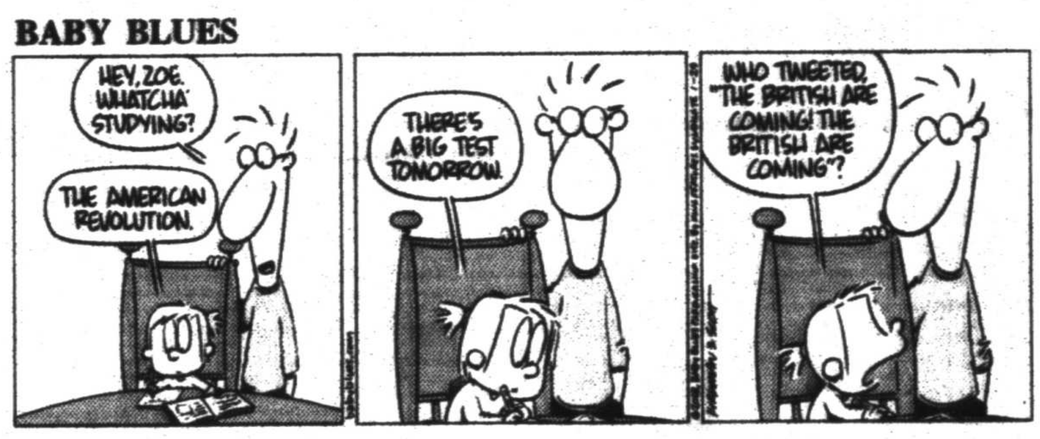
MARY WORTH



ZITS



BABY BLUES



MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME



DENNIS THE MENACE



LOCKHORNS



FAMILY CIRCUS



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

7			4					
	8				2		3	
			1				7	6
	7	2	5					8
3				6				9
9					1	5	6	
5	2				7			
	9		2				4	
					8			7

1/29/18

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SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

1	9	5	2	6	7	3	8	4
4	6	7	8	1	3	2	9	5
8	2	3	4	5	9	6	7	1
7	4	2	1	3	5	8	6	9
6	5	9	7	8	2	1	4	3
3	8	1	6	9	4	5	2	7
9	1	4	5	2	8	7	3	6
2	7	6	3	4	1	9	5	8
5	3	8	9	7	6	4	1	2

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CIHNF

RARUL

DEMLID

ACRAME

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THE HEAD OF THE RECLINER FACTORY WAS THE —

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

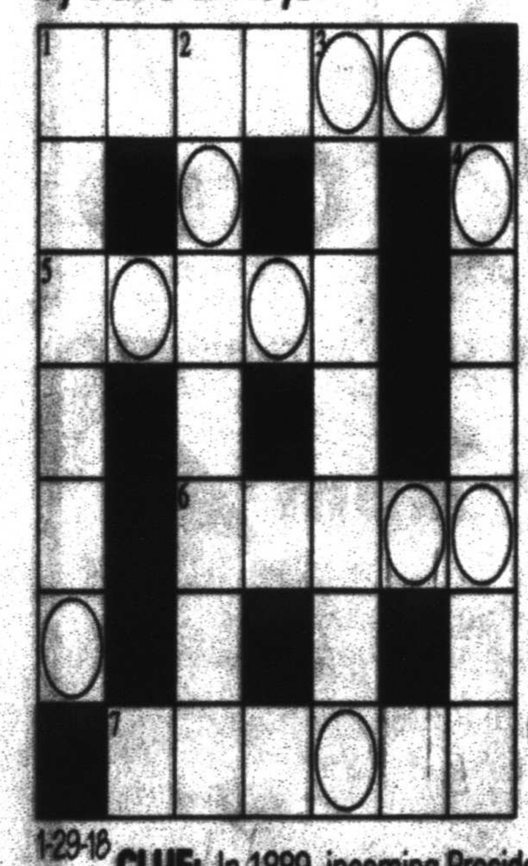
Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DWARF STOOD HONCHO CRUTCH
Answer: The seven and nine didn't get along and were often — AT ODDS

JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Optimistic	BTUAPE
5. ___ rate	SPLEU
6. Older person	REEDL
7. Bank, often	ENRDLE

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Take out, remove	NCPKAU
2. Trust, rely on	EVBIEEL
3. Modified	MNDEEDA
4. Holder	REEABR

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

1-29-18

CLUE: In 1889, incoming President Harrison ordered a full set of this company's carriages and harnesses for the White House.

BONUS

©Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com

ANSWERS 1A-Flee 2A-Elate 7A-Leader 1D-Upset 2D-Rely 3D-Amended 4D-Agent

Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Pearl Harbor site
5 Breaks under pressure
10 Fabric woven with metallic threads
14 Dec. 25
15 Aerosmith frontman Steven
16 Apple tablet
17 "Blueberry Hill" R&B singer
19 Telephoto, for one
20 Had lunch, say
21 Cry from one who's all thumbs
22 Boot camp nickname
23 Title passenger train with an "ever-lovin' light"
27 Integer after zero
28 Bank job
29 Frosty coat
32 Plant's sticker
34 Arabic "son of"
37 Cho-Cho-San story on which a Puccini opera was based
41 "Total Request Live" network
42 Bedouins, e.g.
43 90 degrees from norte
44 Ear-related
46 007 creator Fleming
48 Body of water bordering most of Connecticut's coast
55 Ancient Peruvians
56 Place to order a Reuben
57 __ Paulo, Brazil
58 Chow or lo follower, in Chinese cuisine
59 Undesired medication consequence ... and what can literally go with the end of 17-, 23-, 37- and 48-Across
62 Marching musicians
63 Opinion pieces
64 Fishing decoy
65 Gold medalist Korbut
66 Bottom-of-the-barrel
67 Copies

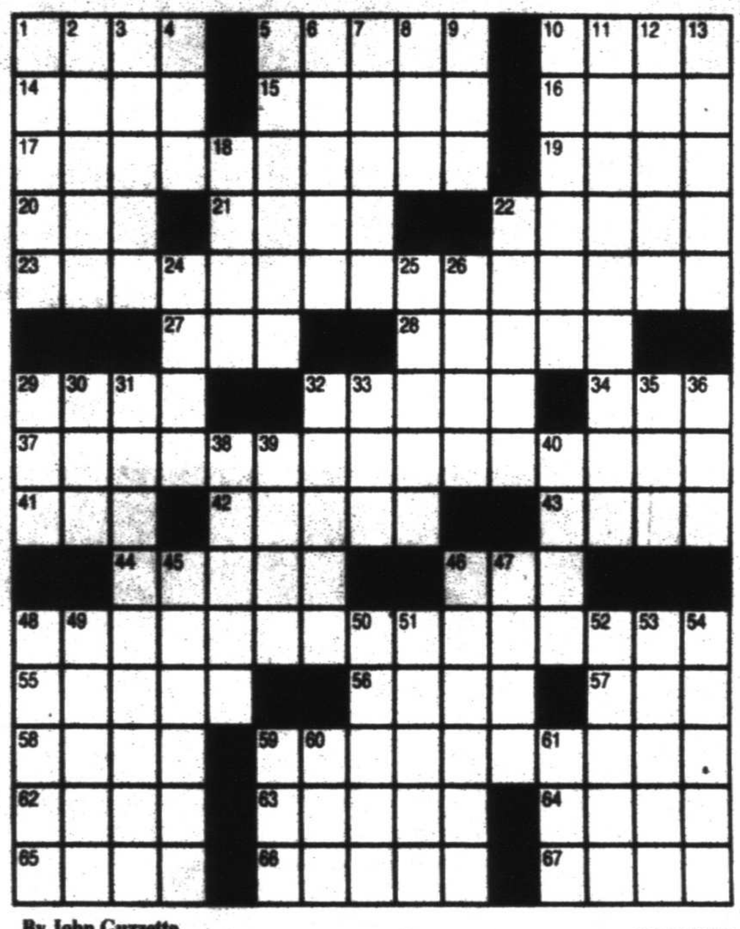
DOWN

1 Britain-based relief agcy.
2 Prized violin
3 Abhorrent
4 Navy sub initials
5 Moe, Curly or Larry
6 Lorelei, for one
7 Roster of invited celebs
8 Signer's writer
9 Sign of a sellout
10 Purple flowers
11 Pre-dinner drinks
12 Japanese comics
13 '50s Ford flop
18 Bump off
22 River through Paris
24 Screenwriter Ephron
25 Attempts to score, in hockey
26 Saucy
29 "I'm thinking ... "
30 Grain in Quaker cereals
31 Getting promotions
32 Little League precursor
33 Center of a wheel
35 Sandwich letters
36 "Science Guy" Bill
38 Roger who broke Babe's record
39 Times often named for presidents
40 Alternative to Vegas
45 Where Amin ruled
46 Least active
47 "Yeah, right!"
48 Dance under a bar
49 Tatum of "Paper Moon"
50 Puff __; snake
51 Requires
52 Exhaust
53 Mother-of-pearl
54 Adores to death, with "on"
59 Spread, as discord
60 NYSE debut
61 Ga.'s southern neighbor

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

A	B	C	S	P	O	R	T	S		S	T	U	N	T
N	E	R	D	A	L	E	R	T		A	R	T	I	E
D	R	E	S	S	E	D	U	P		Z	O	N	E	S
Y	T	D		C	A	R	E		R	E	J	E	C	T
			G	A	R	Y		H	A	R	A	R	E	
G	N	A	R	L	Y		P	A	V	A	N	E		
P	I	L	E	S		O	O	Z	E	C	H	A	R	M
A	C	M	E		H	I	K	E	D		O	D	I	E
S	K	I	N	T	O	N	E	S		W	R	E	S	T
		C	H	A	L	K	Y		D	E	S	R	E	E
	S	H	O	R	T	S		W	A	L	E			
Q	U	A	R	T	Z		W	A	H	L		M	S	U
T	E	E	N	A		P	I	L	L	O	R	I	E	S
I	D	L	E	R		A	R	T	I	F	A	C	T	S
P	E	S	T	S		X	Y	Z	A	F	F	A	I	R

01/29/18



By John Guzzetta
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01/29/18

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WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

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1. DENIAL

2. ADMINISTRATION

Print Your Answers Here:

1. ____ _____ _____

2. _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Today's Answers:

1. A flat denial
2. Crooked administration

1-29

Created by Tom Underwood
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WUZZLES® Answers

1. A flat denial
2. Crooked administration

1-29

There's a little bit of everything in
Education
Look for it in Tuesday's edition of the Reporter-Telegram

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Two chile rellenos (naked or battered) smothered with our red sauce or queso. Your choice of beef, chicken or cheese. Served with rice, beans, & large homemade flour tortilla.

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Four chicken flautas, rice, beans, guacamole, & sour cream.

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Office/Clerical PT Person

Office/Clerical PT Clerical Person needed from Monday-Friday, $350.00 weekly.Computer skills are a must. Need to be detail oriented, possess good customer service skills, some cash & items handling skills. Must be able to do little errands. Apply Email: billwilliams0029@gmail.com or Call 432-218-7942

RECEPTIONIST

Tanklogix is hiring for the position of Receptionist. We offer competitive pay and benefits. Applicants must pass a background check and drug screen. Apply and submit a resume in person at 12200 W. Hwy 80 E., Odessa, TX

CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES

Contractors w/ Plumbing Construction Exp.

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Mudloggers/Field Geologists

Advance Consultants Corp. is now hiring **Experienced Mudloggers/Field Geologists.** Geology Degree preferred. Email resumes to advance@advancelogging.com

Producer Accounting Analyst

Oil & Gas energy firm in Midland, TX, is looking to fill a Producer Accounting Analyst position. Duties include data preparation and monthly settlement for Permian area Gas Processing plants. Candidate must have excellent computer and communication skills. College degree required. PGAS and TIPS experience preferred. Competitive benefits including health insurance, 401K and Cafeteria Plan. Mail resume to Producer Accounting, 211 N. Colorado, Midland, TX. 79701 or email to jlarquier@sweetexagas.com.

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occassionally. We will train the right person. $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.



Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@reporternp.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person. $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday - Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@reporternp.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

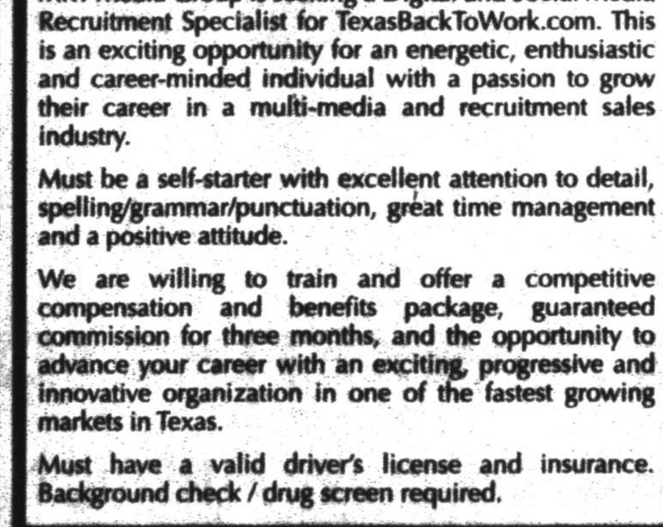


Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Full Time Manager & Cashiers

Smoker's Outlet has openings for Manager Trainee & Cashiers. Full-time & Part-time positions avaible, must have own transportation. Apply in person Mon-Fri 8-5 5000 E University Ste 11, Odessa,TX

SALES JOBS



MRT Media Group is seeking a Digital and Social Media Recruitment Specialist for TexasBackToWork.com. This is an exciting opportunity for an energetic, enthusiastic and career-minded individual with a passion to grow their career in a multi-media and recruitment sales industry.

Must be a self-starter with excellent attention to detail, spelling/grammar/punctuation, great time management and a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, and the opportunity to advance your career with an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

Must have a valid driver's license and insurance. Background check / drug screen required.

SALES JOBS

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If you want to join a GREAT TEAM and are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to: cranderson@hearstnp.com. Chad Anderson, Advertising Sales Manager, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

OUTSIDE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers.

Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/ exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a GREAT TEAM and are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to: Cranderson@hearstnp.com

Chad Anderson, Advertising Sales Manager 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

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Lube/ Oil Positions available in the following territories: Amarillo, Midland, Abilene. Regional full line lubricant sales and distribution center has immmediate openings for experiecned lube/oil sales personnel. Position offers full benefit package. Our growth-oriented environment offers excellent salary plus commission. Resume to: pgilbert@rpgriffin.com

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Electrical Apprentice

Immidate Opening for Electrical Apprentice with sign on BONUS!! Please Call 432-967-1066

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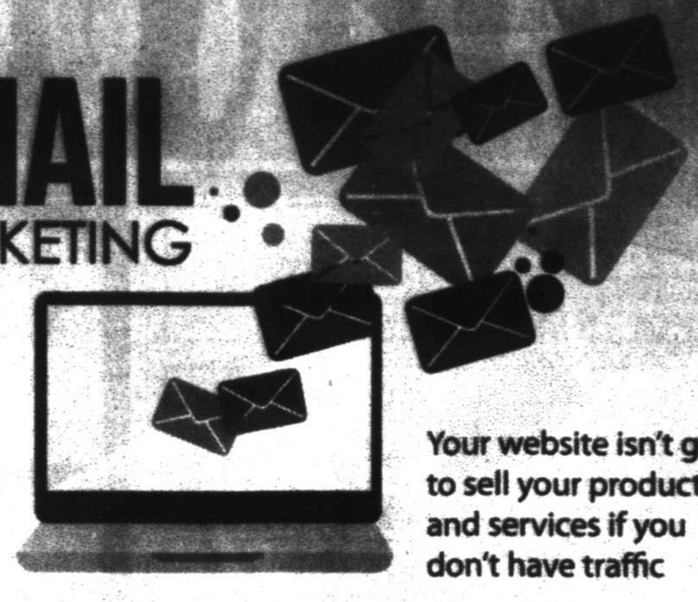
Content Marketing



Creating clear content that educates and inspires your customers

EMAIL MARKETING



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ONLINE MARKETING



SEO



Is your website properly optimized and marketed?

Social Media



It's time to take control of your Social Media

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MRT Media Group has an extensive offering of digital promotional tools that produce measurable results for today's online marketing arena. We offer marketing solutions through digital channels such as search engines, websites, social media, email, and mobile apps.

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31 Events and Notices

General Announcement

Thank You! Jesus! Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Autos For Sale/Lease

Passenger Cars

For Sale: 1993 Chevrolet Caprice Classic 137,805 miles, well maintained with all maintence records available. Call 432-557-8774 $2, 500 OBO

2010 JAGUAR XF premium, 4 door sedan, white, excellent condition. 73K miles. $13,000. 432-689-4391 or 432-687-4632

IMMACULATE BEAUTY 2008 Mercedes Benz, E350, $15,000. 432-770-9217

Passenger Cars

TOYOTA 2000 Avalon 172,350 K miles. $3,500. Good condition. 432-638-7378

Merchandise

Furniture

5' WESTERN wood dining table, 8 chairs with cowhide seat covers, matching hutch and 3 bar stools. $950. Call 432-686-1039 or 432-413-2429

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

15-FOOT CIRCULAR trampoline in good condition. If interested, call 352-0605

Medical Equipment Invacare hospital bed $500. Medline wheelchair $130. Drive walker $60. Drive walker/ transporter wheelchair $100. All in excellent condition. 432-202-3273

Musical Instruments

1957'S GIBSON Hollow body electric guitar, model # ES-140 3/4 with case. Collectors item. $2,800. 432-352-8419

Sporting Goods

"GUN SHOW" Midland Horseshoe Feb. 3rd & 4th 806-253-1322 midlandgunshow.com

Pets-Animals

Cats

LOST: B & W Male Cat Has collar and tags if seen please call Ann @ 432-889-3515 last seen on Bedford &G St. Will offer small reward if found!!

Real Estate Rental-Sale

Residential Rentals

UPSCALED CORPORATE APT. fully furnished, 1 bed/ 1bath. $2,899 all bills paid. Month to month lease available. 432-352-7777

Residential Rentals

Apartment Rent Unfurn

EFFICIENCY APARTMENT located behind 907 W. Dakota. $700 monthly, utilities paid $300 deposit. Call Melissa 432-260-9767.

House Rent Unfurn

3 Bed 2 bath with garage, $ 950 a month Collage Av. Lease to own (575-937-9377)

Residential Sales

Condo Townhouses

4 bedroom 2 bath, 2 living areas in Airline Mobile Home Park # 886. 432-813-4050.

Single Family Homes

UNDER CONTRACT! BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED 3 bedroom 2 baths, 2 car garage, large backyard. $169,000. Open house every Sunday 2-4 until sold. 5121 W. Illinois. 432-683-2243. No owner finance!

Lots and Land

Acreage

20 acres of rawland in North West Midland. Blacktop road in front, gravel road behind, 1/2 mile off of Loop 250 and 1 mile from I20 Call 432-349-2573

Oil and Gas Leases

MINERAL RIGHTS for lease in Stanton, TX. (townsite) Martin County. 1.3930 . acre, only 3 years lease, at $15 K per acre at .25 % royalty, serious inquires only. 432-967-3710. Thank you.

IRRIGATED Farm For Sale. 4,640 acres in Yoakum County TX. www.broncofarm.com or (806) 316-5055

Commercial

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE 5 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALICHED. $2350/MONTH JUST EAST OF MIDLAND 432-664-7784

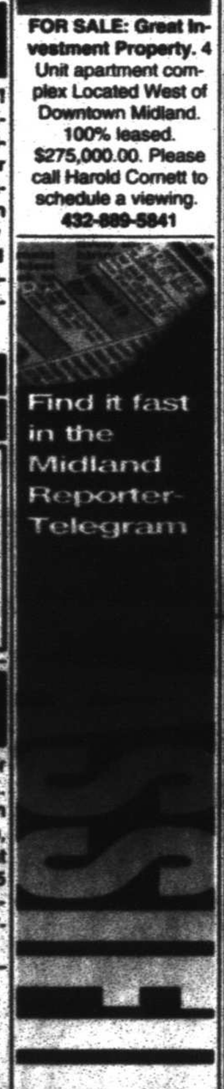
Office Building and 10 secure acres for lease. Great location. Cloverdale Road 432-634-2403

SHOP/ YARD for lease. CR 90 Properties, LP Broker/ Owner 432-230-9139

For Lease: 20,00 ft Light Manufacturing or Storage Building, within Midland city limits.New sprinkler system.Call 432-349-2573



FOR SALE: Great Investment Property. 4 Unit apartment complex Located West of Downtown Midland. 100% leased. $275,000.00. Please call Harold Cornett to schedule a viewing. 432-989-5841



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You can advertise your business for as little as $47.00 monthly. Call 682-6222 for details.

Accounting-Financial

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REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. Free Removal. Full Warranty, Very Affordable Prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N Midkiff, Midland Call 432-570-8278

Cleaning Services

Home Cleaning

EXPERIENCED HOUSE CLEANING 432-661-0493

HOUSEKEEPING 16 years experience. Free estimates. Call Cecy at 432-250-2356

HOUSEKEEPING, 18 years experience. References available. Elva @ 432-553-0928

I can clean your house and make it sparkle, also clean windows, rake yards and anything else I can do for you. Great references and years of experience. Please, call Gloria at 432-553-4052.

RESIDENTIAL/MAKE READY/NEW construction. All cleaning supplies provided. 25 years experience. Call Shelly 432-557-5820 or Carla 432-770-7939.

Computer Services

Repair-Replacement

A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! Your PLACE at Your PACE. Call Karen 432-553-2468 (leave msg).

Hauling

HAULING & Cleanouts Home, storage, or office. 432-889-1318

Home Services

Brick, Block, Stone

ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR, brick & mortar repair, All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickey. 432-853-2859.

BRICK, BLOCK & Stone Work. 45 years experience. References. Max 432-661-8899

CONCRETE OVERLAY SOLUTIONS. Crack repair, resurface, stamp overlay, new welcome. By Manny Ribera. Call 432-967-3710 mRiberaConstruction.com Video: https://youtu.be/8LIUKSdQDIg

For all your concrete needs, driveways, sidewalks, new slabs house or garage additions. Call Danny @ 432-894-0702

Concrete Services

Concrete

JS Concrete

Slabs, curbs, driveways, patios, Stamp concrete. Free Estimates. Bonded & Insured. Juan Sanchez, owner. 432-413-0924

Electrical

ALL YOUR electrical needs met. Call G&S Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0859. Tecl # 22541

LAING ELECTRIC. 432-413-5880 Licensed and insured. TECL 18544. Always appreciated!

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A1ith FENCING A rating on Angie's List. Residential fence, builder and repair. Reliable, professional, and quick response. Local for 12 years. 432-254-9207

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ERIC'S FIREWOOD, 1/4 cord $100, 1/2 cord $200, full cord $400, stacked & delivered. Thank you. 432-934-6198.

FIREWOOD BY Midland Fireman. Oak, Pinon, Mesquite firewood. Full, half and quarter cords. Free delivery. Also, Tree Trimming services and firewood racks for sale. Call 432-557-2897, 209-1131.

Handyman

Total Handyman Services A through Z and total remodel and room addition by native Midlander Manny Ribera (432) 967-3710 mRiberaConstruction.com Video: https://youtu.be/8LIUKSdQDIg

Heat-Air Condition

ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683-2679. TACLB005482.

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PRECISE PAINTING FEMALE PAINTER: Interior/exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4643

Pool and Spa

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Roofing

J&J ROOFING All Types of Roofing & Repairs. Fence Repairs, Metal roofs. 25 years experience. Free Estimates Call Juan, 432-631-6661

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

AFFORDABLE TREE shrub pruning, removal, sprinkler repairs. Licensed & Insured. Call Williams Tree Lawn Sprinkler 561-8802, 638-6183.



DAVID'S TREE & LAWN SERVICE Trimming trees & shrubs, leaf clean ups, mowing and more! Please call to make appointment 432-349-0684 www.facebook.com/davidstreelawnservice

Remodeling-Repair

LEONARD & SONS PAINTING & REMODELING General Contractor All types of painting interior and exterior, new construction, drywall and texture, brick motor repair, kitchen and bath remodeling, wood and tile floors. Custom work over 35 yrs + exp. Call 432-438-9913 Free Estimates. Follow us on Facebook

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

EDDIE'S LAWN SERVICE Cut and Trim Yards, Trees and Bushes. Clean up yards & rake leaves. Free Estimates.Call 432-638-5559

Miscellaneous Services

WATER TREATMENT
Culligan of West Texas
Residential & Commercial
FREE WATER ANALYSIS
563-2690

We buy homes in any area in any condition.
Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors 432-689-7770.

Pet Services

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Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

GENERAL YARD Fall clean-up, mulching, tree & shrub trimming/ pruning, planting, winter prepping & many more services. 432-853-8897

LONE STAR HANDYMAN Lawn care service and flower bed clean up,trim hedges , raking leaves, wood fence & gates repairs,and planting flower beds Call 432-889-9233 after hours Mon-Sat 11:30 am-6:30 pm

MURPHY'S LAWN CARE Mowing, edging, trimming, Hedge/ shrub trimming, clean-ups. Bill or Maryann. (432)687-2131

RAUL'S LAWN Services. Lawn mowing, edging, shrub trimming. Free estimates. Reasonable. Call Raul @ 432-254-6384.

RETIRED MIDLAND fireman. Trim trees, hedges, clean flower beds, clean up & mowing. Call 697-2030.

STRACENER IRRIGATION Sprinkler Systems Repairs & Installations License #4933 Call (432) 561-9525

Miscellaneous Services

Attention Truckers!! The Burrito Lady is open from 6am-1pm Mon-Sat Fresh Made to Order Call In's Welcome 325-456-0156 318 S Main St Eden,Tx

NEED A pet sitter? References provided. Call 432-528-3223

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ELAINE'S MASSAGE THERAPY! Come in and relax. Get help with your back neck shoulder pain. Call or txt 432-258-0944. Gift certicates available!

Classified CAN 682-6222

Fax Your Ad 24-7 682-6999

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bid(s) will be received until 2:00 P.M., February 14, 2018 to be opened at 2:00 P.M., in the Office of the City Secretary City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid No. 18001163

For: Utility Tractor

If the Contract is awarded, it will be awarded to either the lowest responsible bidder, or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the City of Midland. In determining the best value for the City of Midland, the City of Midland may consider the criteria enumerated in Section 252.043 of the Texas Local Government Code. Information for Bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications and General conditions for bidding may be obtained from the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas.

Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bid(s) will be received until 2:00 P.M., February 14, 2018 to be opened at 2:00 P.M., in the Office of the City Secretary City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid No. 18000987

For: Yard Waste Mulching

If the Contract is awarded, it will be awarded to either the lowest responsible bidder, or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the City of Midland. In determining the best value for the City of Midland, the City of Midland may consider the criteria enumerated in Section 252.043 of the Texas Local Government Code. Information for Bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications and General conditions for bidding may be obtained from the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas.

Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

Lots and Land

FEATURED RANCHES FOR SALE

35,400 Deeded acres in Sterling County, Texas – Offered at $1,500/ac – The ranch varies from high, forested pastures providing cover to many species of wildlife. This scenic ranch has the perfect "Land of Enchantment" charm. The property is well watered with extensive improvements and the ranch receives over 100 elk permits. One-half minerals. $550 per acre.

10,665 acres located in Terrell County, Texas – This outstanding hunting ranch is located north of Sanderson. Big Canyon runs through the ranch creating a combination of limestone hills, ridges, valley bottoms and upland plateaus. The ranch features both mule deer and whitetail, and in recent years, elk have migrated to the property. Classified Minerals. $525 per acre.

25,789 acres located in Reeves County, Texas – This ranch is located near Pyramid in the heart of the Permian Basin. It has proven frac sand reserves on the east side of the Monahans Sandhills. The property has access off I-20 with extensive railroad frontage. There are three new Ceres Aquifer water wells. Sand test results, survey and other pertinent information is available. Because of the proven frac sand availability, this ranch has great upside potential. $1,047 per acre.

14,398 acres located in Pecos and Brewster Counties – The terrain varies from rocky, gravelly rocky formations to rocky mountain hills and mountains. Extensive brush cover has been done on portions of the ranch, and approximately 4,000 acres are considered to be in good pasture. Excellent hunting, including elk. Classified Minerals. $650 per acre.

7,789 acres located in Pecos County, Texas – The terrain is gently sloping on portions of the ranch, transitioning to rugged limestone hills, ridges and deep canyons. The property is well known for producing large whitetail and mule deer, with elk now common. Classified Minerals. $550 per acre.

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Lots and Land

24.20 AC. N. OF SAN ANGELO IN COKE COUNTY. MESQUITE, CEDAR COVER. DEER, HOGS, QUAIL & DOVE. $3,229 DOWN, $552/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterprises.com

46.64 AC. VAL VERDE COUNTY, N. OF COMSTOCK, W. TX BRUSH COUNTRY. DEER, JAVELINA, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. NEAR LAKE AMISTAD. $2,554 DOWN, $429/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-999-0199 ranchenterprises.com

Commercial

READY-RANCH RR
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

- Sold: 115.556 ac. M. of Sterling, 4 houses, guesthouse, barns, and 8 wells, pipeline, tanks, fenced, water, mule, deer, axis, aoudad, turkey, quail, dove, hunting, ranch
- Sold: 4,312 ac. Mitchell County, pasture, whitetail and mule deer and quail, water, tanks, fenced, ranch
- Sold: 1,771 ac. whitetail, quail, tanks and feeders, great for deer and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail, dove, hunting, ranch
- Sold: 80 ac. Glasscock County, pasture, whitetail and mule deer, quail, turkey, hogs

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神韻晚會 2018
SHEN YUN

Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center
FEB 28, 2018
ShenYun.com 800.380.8165



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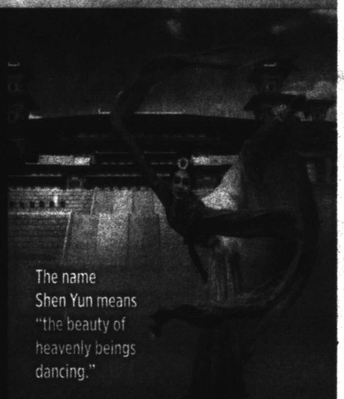
ART CARRIES the very essence of a civilization, and can bring the brilliance and wisdom of a lost culture back to life. Shen Yun takes this as its mission—to revive the very best of China's 5,000 years of civilization. It's a monumental undertaking that pushes the boundaries of performing arts. Ancient art forms meet with innovative multimedia, all-original music, and masterful artistry. Diverse ethnic and folk traditions are beautifully evoked through dance alongside stirring legends and stories of ancient China. With its very own orchestra, Shen Yun makes for an experience you won't find anywhere else.



The name Shen Yun means "the beauty of heavenly beings dancing."

"Gorgeous stage magic! A must see!"

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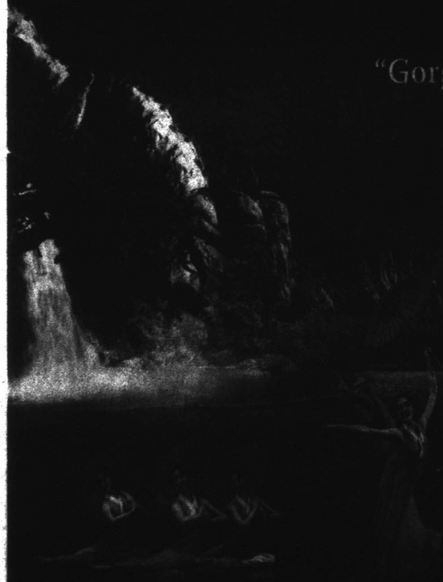

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